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## Resistance front kills 2 SLA members

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese resistance fighters said they killed two officials of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and captured a third in fierce fighting Saturday. The Lebanese National Resistance said in a statement the clash occurred near the village of Kfar Falous in South Lebanon after its fighters ambushed a car driven by an SLA member. It identified the driver as Massoud Elias Massoud, who was taken captive. A photocopy of Massoud's identity card accompanied the statement. Israel backs the SLA in patrolling a "security zone" up to 15 kilometres deep along the border in South Lebanon. Kfar Falous is in a small area outside the zone but also held by the militia. Resistance fighters in the area frequently attack Israeli troops and their surrogates in the SLA. A spokeswoman for the SLA, speaking by telephone from the militia's Marjayoun headquarters, told Reuters in Tel Aviv a member of the SLA was kidnapped near Kfar Falous Friday morning but would not name the missing man. "He was kidnapped Friday... the People's Liberation Army at about eight in the morning, there were no casualties, we have not heard anything about him since then," she said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية ناطقة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

## Moscow working for Iran arms embargo

BAGHDAD (R) — The Soviet Union is consulting other members of the United Nations Security Council as well as Iran and Iraq about possible sanctions against Tehran to enforce a Gulf war ceasefire, a senior Soviet official said Saturday. Gennadiy Gerasimov, a vice-president of the Supreme Soviet, told a news conference: "A second (Security Council) resolution supposed to carry sanctions and an arms embargo against Iran, the party which does not apply the ceasefire order, is under discussion at the United Nations. The Soviet Union has for some time been consulting other Security Council member states and both Iraq and Iran on further steps to adopt a second Security Council resolution to impose sanctions on the party which refuses to implement Resolution 598." Moscow did not oppose such a resolution, he said. "But we think there is an urgent need to prepare the correct resolution to be an effective step in solving the conflict." He said Moscow would continue its efforts "in a balanced way" to convince Tehran to accept a ceasefire. Washington has previously accused Moscow of obstructing action on an arms embargo resolution, but Gerasimov said those who made such accusations were trying to cover up their own activities.

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## PLO seeks help to ensure voyage of 'peace ship'

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has asked the United Nations to ensure that a group of Palestinian deportees is not prevented from returning by sea to Palestine. He made the appeal in a message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. U.N. Security Council President Vernon Walters and the head of the London-based human rights group Amnesty International. "We have no doubt about your support of these people's right to realise their wish to return to their motherland. We ask you to exercise your effective influence to ensure their secure arrival in their motherland," Arafat said.

## Iraq reports attack on ship

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraq Saturday reported a fresh attack on Iranian oil shipping lanes, seeking to keep up pressure on its Gulf war foe and force Tehran to accept a negotiated end to their seven-year-old conflict. A war communiqué issued in Baghdad said Iraqi jet fighters attacked a "large maritime target," military terminology for an oil tanker, at 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) Friday. "Our heroic air force will pursue its chase of Iranian maritime targets and destroy its oil resources, whose revenue is being exploited to continue the aggression on Iraq," said the communiqué, read on Baghdad Radio.

## Vatican official meets Siniora

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican's foreign minister Saturday met with Hanna Siniora, editor of the Jerusalem Al-Fajr newspaper, the second Palestinian figure he received this week. The Vatican did not release details of the 30-minute meeting between Monsignor Achille Silvestrini and Siniora. Silvestrini Thursday met with Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political affairs department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). After the meeting with Kaddoumi, the Vatican issued a statement saying the PLO official "expressed the gratitude of the Palestinians for the moral support that the Holy See gives to the cause of the Palestinian people" and said the Holy See is anxious to find a solution "acceptable to all" involved in the Palestinian problem.

## Swiss march against Israeli policy

BASEL (R) — About 500 demonstrators, some masked, marched through Switzerland's second largest city Saturday to protest against Israeli policy in the occupied territories, police said. In a statement, the protesters demanded recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and condemned Israel's policy of military oppression.

## Khomeini sets up arbitration panel

NICOSIA (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Saturday appointed a commission of ranking Iranian clergymen and politicians to rule in legal and administrative disputes between parliament and the powerful religious Council of Guardians. Khomeini's decree came in a letter disclosed by Tehran Radio.

# Palestinians clash with Israeli troops in Hebron, Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded two Palestinian demonstrators in the Israel-occupied West Bank Saturday and police fired tear-gas at Arab protesters in several Jerusalem neighbourhoods.

Soldiers opened fire after tear-gas and rubber bullets failed to disperse stone-throwing protesters in the village of Bani Na'im, east of Hebron, wounding two people.

Israelis have shot dead at least 43 Palestinians since anti-Israeli protests began in the occupied territories Dec. 9.

Police fired tear-gas at Palestinian demonstrators in the Silwan neighbourhood of Arab Jerusalem, just outside the walled Old City, reports said.

The demonstrators raised Palestinian flags, blocked streets with burning tyres and threw rocks at police who arrested at least one protester.

The crack of tear-gas launchers could be heard and smoke from burning tyres rose from several

(Continued on page 5)



Arab demonstrators burn tyres and hurl stones at Israeli troops in Nablus

## Qadhafi ends Tunis visit, meets Benjedid

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi left Tunisia for a surprise visit to Algeria Saturday, the latest in a series of contacts with North African countries.

Qadhafi discussed his ideas for union between the region's Arab states with President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali during his two-day visit to Tunisia.

Qadhafi is said to have proposed the formation of a union linking Libya with Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

Algeria is spearheading efforts to persuade Libya to join an existing regional non-aggression

(Continued on page 5)

## Murphy holds talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met with Syrian officials Saturday to discuss American proposals for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Damascus Radio said Saturday the United States should adopt an unbiased policy and proposals "must take into consideration the necessity of ending the (Israeli) occupation."

The visit followed two months of Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip that lent new urgency to efforts to help achieve a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, met for 5½ hours with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa after arriving in the Syrian capital earlier in the day. He was expected to meet

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in the evening and President Hafez Al Assad on Sunday.

"We had good long talks with the minister and his colleagues now," Murphy said after his meeting with Sharaa.

He added: "It covered ideas on the concept of the peace process. It covered the Gulf war, the need to move ahead to get that resolved. We also discussed Lebanon and certain aspects of our bilateral relations."

Murphy refused to disclose the outcome of the talks. "The outcome, I find, is always better if not immediately shared with the media."

He said he was carrying a letter

(Continued on page 5)

## 'Settlers buried 4 Arabs alive'

TUNIS (R) — A Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Saturday that armed Israeli settlers buried alive four young Palestinians from a village in the Israeli-occupied West Bank who were later discovered and taken to hospital.

Bassam Abu Sherif, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told Reuters the settlers beat up inhabitants of Saleem, near Nablus, under the protection of Israeli soldiers.

They then rounded up 12 young Palestinians, four of whom were found buried alive on the outskirts of the village. The rest are still missing, he said.

He named the four as Mohsen and Zaccaria Hamdan, aged 19 and 15 respectively, and Abdul Latif and Isam Shiteyah, both 20.

Abu Sherif repeated PLO appeals to the United Nations to protect Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, where at least 43 Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli troops in two months of anti-occupation uprising.

In Tel Aviv an army spokesman denied the report. Reports from the West Bank and Gaza indicate that Jewish settlers have stepped up a campaign of violence against Palestinians.

Settlers have snatched stone-throwers in roadside "arrests," smashed windows of Arab cars, set up armed road patrols, and on several occasions opened fire on Arab demonstrators.

Last week near Bethlehem, Arabs hurled rocks at a bus carrying settlers past Dheisheh refugee camp. Camp residents said half a dozen settlers got off the bus, chased the boys at gunpoint and took three or four with them.

Residents of the Kiryat Arba settlement near Hebron set up armed road patrols last week, saying they wanted to provide a greater sense of "security" to Jewish settlers.

Settlers entered the northern West Bank town of Anabta last Monday, violating a curfew and smashing several car windows in a nighttime raid.

The incident came after Israeli settlers and soldiers confronted demonstrators in Anabta earlier that day. The Israelis opened fire, killing at least three people and wounding three.

## King urges EC to bring about change in U.S. position on peace conference

BONN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has called on the European Community (EC) to exert its influence with the U.S. and accelerate efforts to convene an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King, now on a private visit to France after talks with Italian and French leaders, accused the U.S. in an interview with West German Radio of hindering efforts to set up a peace conference by allowing itself to be swayed by extremist elements in Israel.

The King urged EC ministers, whom he is scheduled to meet in Bonn Monday, to "use all your influence for a change in the U.S. position," north German Radio reported Saturday. Excerpts from the interview were carried by Reuters.

According to the Washington Times, senior Jordanian officials accompanying King Hussein on his just concluded visit to France said that special American envoy Philip Habib, last Saturday in Amman, had "hinted at" U.S. willingness to accept an interna-



His Majesty the King

tional peace conference under U.N. aegis with the participation of the Soviet Union and other permanent Security Council members.

The Jordanians cautioned that it was "simply too early" to tell how serious Washington is about holding such a conference, which in the past has been opposed by both the United States and Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Times said.

## EC reaffirms support

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Saturday that the EC must use its influence to press for an international Middle East peace conference that would lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

He told a West German radio station that the EC endorsed an international peace conference a year ago and was sticking to its position.

"We (the EC) now want throw our weight on the scales," he said, referring to efforts to convene the international conference.

"It's matter of opening actual possibilities for direct negotiations between all affected parties, and for that an international peace conference under U.N. auspices could be the right forum," he said.

Genscher, the current chairman of the community's foreign ministers' conference, will head a meeting Monday which will be attended by King Hussein.

## Jordan, Bulgaria discuss Mideast situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Bulgaria began talks here Saturday on the Middle East situation.

During Saturday's talks, the two sides voiced backing of efforts aimed at achieving just and durable peace in the Middle East through an international peace conference attended by all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the two sides stressed the need for supporting efforts aimed at ending

the war through enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Saturday's discussions also covered trade and economic cooperation and bilateral relations.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud, Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Fayez Tarawneh and other senior officials.

On the Bulgarian side the talks were attended by members of the delegation accompanying the vice-president and Bulgarian Ambassador to Jordan Yanticho Demyrev.

## GCC steps up efforts for ceasefire in Iran-Iraq war

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Arab Gulf states are stepping up diplomatic efforts to enforce a United Nations resolution ordering a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, a senior regional official said Saturday.

"All our efforts are now concentrated on implementing the U.N.'s July 20 call for an end to the war," Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), told Reuters.

"We are keen to see this resolution enforced... we want to decrease tensions in the Gulf," he said.

Bishara said the GCC had sent envoys to win support for a Security Council meeting to dis-

cuss Iran's rejection of a ceasefire.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Moscow last week and urged the Soviet Union to join efforts to force Iranian compliance. He is due to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Tuesday.

Iran has agreed to a dialogue, largely promoted by Syria, for talks with the GCC on improving ties strained by the war and differing political and religious ideologies.

"The general trend among us (the GCC) now is to search for new ways to deepen the existing GCC-Iranian talks to ease tension in the Gulf," said Bishara, in Amman to attend a seminar on Lebanon (See page 3).

## Mubarak returns home

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak returned home Saturday from an eight-nation tour during which he sought support for a new peace drive in the Middle East.

He declined to comment on a new U.S. initiative in the Middle East, telling reporters at Cairo airport: "It's mere press remarks."

The two-week trip took him to the United States, West Germany, Britain, France, Morocco, Italy, Greece and Turkey. In Rome he also had an audience at the Vatican with Pope John Paul.

Mubarak has proposed a six-month cooling-off period in the occupied territories, during which Israel would halt new Jewish settlements, leading to an international peace conference.

Mubarak's calls for a conference won wide backing in Western Europe.

According to Israeli officials, Washington is seeking through indirect negotiations between Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Palestinians to achieve an interim arrangement for Arab "self-rule" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from early 1989.

The U.S. proposals, as reported by the Israelis, make no mention of an international conference which, as envisaged by most Arab states, would involve the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council as well as the parties to the conflict.

## Turkey renews backing

Turkey renewed its backing for the proposal for an international Middle East peace conference Saturday after the 24-hour visit by Mubarak.

President Kenan Evren, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and other officials took part in talks with Mubarak.

"Turkey and Egypt support Palestinian resistance in the territories... an international conference is the only way to a just and peaceful solution," Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said.

Television film of Israelis bearing Palestinians have sparked some indignation among Turkey's mostly Muslim population of 55 million and the right-wing Tercuman newspaper sponsored a day of prayer Friday.

# New American 'initiative' draws doubts, cynicism from analysts

By Lamis Andoni and Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — As the Palestinian uprising continues in the occupied West Bank and Gaza there are indications that the U.S. may launch a fresh initiative to reinvigorate efforts for peace in the Middle East. So far, there have been conflicting reports on the substance of the intended American moves.

Regardless of the contents and the nature of the new American ideas, analysts and politicians express strong scepticism over Washington's intention and willingness to draw closer to the Arab demands for a just settlement of the Palestinian question. Some even express the view that any American move would aim at "containing the uprising and strengthening the Israeli stand."

Most analysts interviewed by the Jordan Times brushed aside the possibility that the Americans could present an even-handed formula, but some believed that the recent developments have led the U.S. to consider new ideas acceptable to all sides involved in the conflict.

Over the last two weeks reports in the Israeli and American press stated that the U.S. was putting forth new proposals to revive the Middle East process.

According to most of these reports, the "new American initiative" is based on the 1978 Camp David peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in that it refocuses the attention on the concept of "self-rule" for the 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

## Main principles

Although the nature of the American "ideas" has not been clarified yet, contacts made by the Jordan Times with Western diplomats and Jordanian officials and a reading of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz testimony to Congress last week indicate that the main principles of the new American move appear to be as under:

— The U.S. is trying to combine new and old ideas in order to blend a new workable formula for peace in the Middle East; — Since the procedure and forms of negotiations have been a point of difference among the parties involved, the new formula will focus on "substance" rather than procedure;

This means, according to one diplomat, the focus of American contacts with the various parties involved is on "what the whole process would lead to."

In other words, it seems that the Americans are seeking the approval of the parties involved on the final goal of negotiations rather than the negotiating procedures.

American officials refuse to disclose much about the substance except that "it is not self-rule by itself"; thus it is not simply a variation of Camp David, but a more advanced formula.

According to Western diplomatic sources, the Palestinian aspiration to end the occupation as expressed by the uprising is taken into consideration by Washington.

## Change in approach

A former Jordanian diplomat who follows American politics very closely said that the new signals coming from Washington indicated a change in the American approach to the peace process. "Until recently the Americans were concentrating on the process itself, while Arab countries were more concerned with what the negotiations would lead to," said the former diplomat, who asked not to be named.

In his view, what has been disclosed so far about the new American ideas "fits very well with Shultz's perception of the situation in the region and with his understanding of the mechanism of a peace process."

The former diplomat pointed out that the main principles which defined American position of the peace process had been the following:

First, that the solution should come from the area. "The American government have repeatedly implied that it was going to react and act," he noted.

The second factor is that American officials, particularly Shultz, have been always focusing on the occupied territories "almost as a separate issue from the whole crisis."

Thus, the uprising has fulfilled "the two preconditions" which would warrant an American reaction. "The uprising presented an action by the one of the parties involved (the Palestinians under occupation) in the area which is seen by the Americans as the crisis area," said the former diplomat.

"Therefore I believe that Shultz means it when he talks about reinvigorating the peace process," he said. But the question

remains whether the American formula will meet the minimum demands of the parties involved, especially the Arabs, and more significantly the Palestinians in the occupied territories, he added.

## Doubts and cynicism

In the absence of an official American confirmation and disclosure of the nature of these new ideas, press reports, coupled by U.S. statements about moves in the area, have produced mixed reactions from Jordanian and Palestinian personalities here.

The overwhelming trend has been to voice doubts and cynicism over the U.S. policy in the region in general. Analysts do not seem to pin much importance to the reports but rather focus on their perception of a consistent American trend.

"I don't think that the U.S. has new ideas, they (the ideas) are all variations of Camp David," said former Deputy Prime Minister Salehman Arar.

According to Abdul Jawad Saleh, head of the Jerusalem Centre for Development Studies and former mayor of Al Bireh in the West Bank, "in essence, the American position has not undergone real changes. It has been an extension of Camp David and the 1982 Reagan plan."

In Saleh's view, no American initiative has dealt with the political essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and all proposals overlooked the Palestinian question.

Other analysts believe that the present U.S. administration is not serious on any moves towards peace in the region, since 1988 is an election year and presidential candidates are more concerned with elections than with finding a solution to the Palestinian problem, a controversy in the U.S.

## U.S.-Israel alliance

In addition, the analysts say, the "strategic alliance" between Israel and the U.S. will prevent the formulation of a balanced American policy.

"If we look at Reagan's background for the past eight years, he has not been serious, not even on his own initiative. So why should he now force the Israelis into any peace initiative?" asked

(Continued on page 5)

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**BEIRUT (AP)** — A booby-trapped car exploded in a South Beirut Shi'ite Muslim district Saturday, killing a local militia commander, police said.

## Bomb defused near Air France office

He died in hospital 13 days later.

**The May 9 Movement has not made itself known in Lebanon before.**

## Bahraini crown prince in Egypt

## Iraq denies seeking pipeline guarantees

attorney E. Robert Wallach, had a financial interest in the project and sent Meese a memo citing a plan to pay off a top Israeli official in return for a guarantee that Israel would not destroy the

According to some people familiar with the contents of the letter to Mr. Meese, Mr. Safaer tried to get Secretary of State

The headquarters agreement calls for disputes to be resolved by a panel of three arbiters — one chosen by the U.N. secretary

"No final decisions are being made," the State Department deputy spokeswoman emphasized. "We've given our recommendations; it's up to the attorney general, and we expect his decision to be announced very soon."

## UNRWA expects release of kidnapped aides

The Arab UNRWA official said Stening conducted a "hush-hush investigation that revealed massive thefts of fuel and medical supplies from UNRWA's pharmacies in Tyre and Sidon two

Militia sources in Beirut told Reuters the kidnappers were Palestinians who could be loyal to Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) or to Muslim fundamentalists.

lavs.  
Their abduction brought to 27 the number of foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

## Bahraini crown prince in Egypt

The prince, on a three-day visit, will meet Defence Minister Field-Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala Sunday and President Hosni Mubarak Monday.

## Baghdad sends military aid to Sudan

The Iraqi military aid helped the Sudanese army to liberate Karmak and Kizan towns from the insurgents (in the south)," Pacifico Lolik, a member of Sudan's Supreme Council, told

Louk arrived in Baghdad Sunday and had talks with President Saddam Hussein and other officials on the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral issues.

There was no immediate confirmation of the reports available in Khartoum.

## India, UAE call for Gulf peace

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday called for the U.N. Security Council order for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war to be implemented.

The UAE News Agency WAM said both countries also called for efforts to find a Middle East peace settlement that guaranteed inalienable Palestinian rights.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel: 77111-19		<b>BBC WORLD SERVICE</b> 639, 720, 123 KHz		<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b> <i>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (88) 33300-5, where it should always be verified.</i>		<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 15:55 Cartoons 16:05 Dennis the Menace 16:25 Children's programmes 17:30 Issara 17:50 Local programme 18:10 Soccer 19:10 Local agricultural programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Programme on Arabic 22:00 T.V. Magazine (local) 23:00 News Summary 23:10 Close down		<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>  <b>FOLK DANCE</b> * Performances of Romanian folk dance daily at 9:00 p.m. at Alia Gate-way Hotel (until Feb. 10).  <b>AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL</b> * "Children of a Lesser God" (1986) at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre as part of the American film festival (until Feb. 7).  <b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b> Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7 American Centre ..... 644371 American Cultural Library ..... 641520 British Council ..... 6361478 French Cultural Centre ..... 637009 Goethe Institute ..... 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 624049 United Nations Cultural Centre ..... 641977 Haya Arts Centre ..... 665195 Hussein Youth City ..... 6671816 Y.W.C.A. .... 641793 American Municipal Library ..... 642525 Univ. of Jordan Library ..... 843553		<b>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</b> 09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 10:20 Cairo (MS) 10:30 Berlin (F) 12:10 Rome (AZ) 13:00 Tripoli (AF) 13:05 Bahrain, Sharja (GF) 14:40 Jeddah (SV) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 16:30 Baghdad (IA) 17:20 Athens (AF) 20:00 Santa's (RJ) 21:50 Cairo (MS)		<b>GENERAL</b> Jordan Television ..... 77111/19 Radio Jordan ..... 77111/19 Ministry of Tourism ..... 642311 Hotel complaints ..... 669412 Price complaints ..... 661176 Telephone Information ..... 12 Jordan and Middle East calls ..... 10 Overseas calls ..... 17 Repair service ..... 11	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b> 18:00 Rue Carnot 18:30 L'Ecole des Fant 19:00 News in French 19:15 International Circus Festival 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Farrington of the F.O. 21:10 Australia (documentary) - Part 2 22:00 News in English 22:30 Secret Army		<b>SERVICE CLUBS</b> The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Lions Philadelph Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelph Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.		<b>MONEY EXCHANGE</b>  <b>Saturday rates</b> Local sell/buy rates in ffs Belgian franc ..... 54.8 / 96.3 Dutch guilder ..... 12.6 / 179.4 French franc ..... 38.8 / 59.7 Italian lire ..... 27 / 21.4 Japanese yen (for 100) ..... 260.6 / 265.6 Kilowatt cover ..... 59.9 Swiss franc ..... 241.4 / 246.3 U.K. sterling pound ..... 591.2 / 602.1 U.S. dollar ..... 337.8 / 342.9 W. German mark ..... 198.1 / 201.7		<b>NIGHT DUTY</b> ABDMAN: Dr. Nabil Maridi ..... 615338 Dr. Yabla Abdul Rahim ..... 736072 Dr. Ahmad Oulman ..... 768384 Dr. Mahmud Awad ..... 741391 First pharmacy ..... 669192 Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336 Al Asena pharmacy ..... 657055 Naitrakh pharmacy ..... 626572 Al Salan pharmacy ..... 636730 Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660	
<b>RADIO JORDAN</b> 855 KHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM & partly on 8900 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-19		<b>CHURCHES</b> St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh, Tel. 637440 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757 Terzian Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 623666 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601399 Roman Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 777515 Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534 Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabiye St. Sunday 7:00 p.m. Rev. N. Sirin 811295 Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical Entertainment, Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 622605, Rev. Veli. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815-817, 812-264.		<b>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</b> 09:15 Kuwait (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 16:45 Cairo (RJ) 17:00 London (RJ) 17:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 18:00 Paris (RJ) 18:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 18:15 Brussels, Geneva (RJ) 18:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 19:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ) 23:25 Baghdad (RJ)		<b>HOSPITALS</b> Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32 Khaldia, J. Amn ..... 626816 Abdel Maternity, J. Amn ..... 643362 Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 636140 Malhiya, J. Amman ..... 646474 Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 641714 Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131 University Hospital ..... 843570/55 Al-Mustashir Hospital ..... 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/57 Al-Abi, Abdali ..... 661646 Al-Abi, Al-Muhajir ..... 7771013 Al-Farabi, J. Amn ..... 660300 Army, Marja ..... 891611/5 Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/20 Anzal Hospital ..... 674155	
<b>VOICE OF AMERICA</b> MW 1360 & SW 720, 9865, 1174, 11825 and 15210 Hz		<b>MUSEUMS</b> "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the top. New Century Museum. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the anti-quest history of Jordan. Located at Al Qal'a (Clashed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan Museum: Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim conquest and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Wenta-		<b>PRAYER TIMES</b> 05:43 Fajr 06:22 Sunrise (Suzuki) Duna 11:59 Dhur 14:59 Asr 17:17 Maghreb 18:37 Isha		<b>MARKET PRICES</b>  <b>Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.</b> Apple (French) ..... 420 / 350 Apple (green) ..... 470 / 400 Banana ..... 350 / 300 Banana (Mukammar) ..... 300 / 240 Beans (broad) ..... 450 / 400 Cabbage ..... 140 / 100 Carrot ..... 240 / 200 Carrot (yellow) ..... 240 / 200 Cauliflower ..... 140 / 100 Cucumber ..... 160 / 100 Dates (box) ..... 1000 / 80 Eggplant (large) ..... 100 / 60 Garlic ..... 250 / 200	
<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 18:00 Rue Carnot 18:30 L'Ecole des Fant 19:00 News in French 19:15 International Circus Festival 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Varieties 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Farrington of the F.O. 21:10 Australia (documentary) - Part 2 22:00 News in English 22:30 Secret Army		<b>DEPARTURES</b> <b>ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</b> 07:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:50 Cairo (RJ) 13:00 Kuwait (RJ) 19:40 Dhuhran (RJ) 19:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 19:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 20:05 Baghdad (RJ) 20:15 Larnaca (RJ) 20:40 Jeddah, Santa's (RJ) 20:15 Cairo (RJ) 21:15 Damascus (RJ) 21:40 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 22:00 Bangkok (RJ)		<b>WEATHER</b>  <i>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</i>  It will be partly cloudy with slight rain. Slight rise in temperature will occur. The wind will be westerly. In Amnaba, it will be partly cloudy, northerly wind and calm sea.  Min./max. temp. Amman ..... 5 / 14 Aqaba ..... 10 / 21 Deserts ..... 4 / 15 Jordan Valley ..... 9 / 20  Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 10, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 87 per cent. Aqaba 45 per cent.		<b>GENERAL</b> Jordan Television ..... 77111/19 Radio Jordan ..... 77111/19 Ministry of Tourism ..... 642311 Hotel complaints ..... 669412 Price complaints ..... 661176 Telephone Information ..... 12 Jordan and Middle East calls ..... 10 Overseas calls ..... 17 Repair service ..... 11	



Office

## Zarqa nursing college project launched today

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh today lays the foundation stone for the nursing college and paramedical institute project in Zarqa, a Health Ministry source said Saturday.

The college, which would graduate 100 registered nurses and 25 legal midwives per year, is expected to be completed by the end of next year, according to the source. The institute is also expected to graduate 100 paramedics a year.

The project is being built on 10,000 square metres at a cost of JD 980,000, the source told the Jordan Times.

Currently, the ministry rents the small building for the nursing college in Zarqa, which graduates only three nurses and nine midwives a year. Since Jordan suffers from a shortage of registered nurses, midwives and paramedics, the new college is being established in an effort to encourage young Jordanians to join these professions, the source said.

## Electricity workers elect new federation board

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Federation of Electricity Workers has elected nine members to serve on its new board for the next four years.

The nine are: Samir Qarden, who won 1178 votes, Hatmal Akaleh (846), Issa Jariri (809), Mohammad Fauri (769), Faleh Daboubi (765), Moussa Saoud (740) Said Hussein Zakha (727), Hassan Ali Hussein (669), and Abdul Wadud Rahab (638).

Samir Qarden, who served as chairman of the previous board of

directors, said in a statement following the announcement of the results that his success in the election reflected a general recognition of his past efforts and diligent work in serving the electricity workers.

Qarden is expected to be made chairman of the new board, as he won the largest number of votes in the election held Thursday. The counting of votes continued until early Friday and the results were not disclosed until Friday morning.

## JMI, JUST review prospects for cooperation

IRBID (Petra) — Director-General of the Jordanian Medical Institution (JMI) Dr. Daoud Hanania Saturday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid and met with President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni.

Ajlouni briefed Hanania on the university's educational program-

mes and medical faculty plans. Hanania, who is also director of the Royal Medical Services, discussed with Ajlouni cooperation between JMI and the JUST, and later inspected recently-built infrastructure of the King Abdul-Hospital which will serve as a training hospital for JUST medical students.

## Arab Wings on call to serve time-conscious Mideast travellers

By Rania Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Jordanian subsidiary Arab Wings, which provides executive jet charter services, in a little more than a decade has established itself as a self-sufficient company pioneering in moving time-conscious people around the Middle East.

In its 12 years of operation, Amman-based Arab Wings has also become a major regional service and maintenance centre for executive aircraft, and is considering introducing a domestic helicopter service.

With a fleet of 3 Sabreliners (75 A), Arab Wings has more than just "plain" charters to offer. It flies time-conscious executives and dignitaries to their destinations, offering a wide-range of services including executive services, handling and maintenance.

When Arab Wings (AW) was established in 1975, "the idea was for a charter to serve businesspeople and government officials to move in the area," according to AW Managing Director Sharif Ghazi Rakan. "There was a vacuum which needed some thing like Arab Wings to fill it."

AW flies to wherever its customers wish to go; it has no specific flight routes. But with Amman as its base, and two other sub-bases in Dubai and Bahrain, most of AW's activity centres around the Middle East, particularly the Gulf region.

The advantages of AW over regular airlines is that when travelling with a regular airline, "a passenger is tied to the set schedule," Sharif Ghazi said, noting that "with our airplanes, it is the reverse: the plane is there for you, and whenever you decide to leave, the plane is ready for your service, just like a limousine."

The company was named "Arab Wings" because the original idea was for all Arab states to be partners in it. Though all

states showed interest, only Oman took a share. AW is now co-owned by Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Sultanate of Oman (76 and 24 per cent, respectively), and is managed entirely by Jordanians.

AW's clients are mainly executives, businesspeople, government officials and dignitaries. But on a number of occasions AW aircraft have been chartered by major news agencies covering time-sensitive events in the area, such as the Iranian Revolution and the Lebanese civil war.

There are no specific commercial conditions by which AW must abide. Rather, there are "open skies" arrangements with almost all destination countries, which means that overflying and landing rights are obtained annually. According to As'ad Nimry at the Ground Operations Department, only notification procedures are required and are usually made just prior to the aircraft's departure.

This enables AW to respond efficiently to client requests, in one or two hours provided an aircraft is available. If no aircraft is available, Nimry told the Jordan Times, AW can arrange for a client to depart as soon it chartered an aircraft from another company.

AW's charges depend on the duration of the flight, but usually fall at \$1,650 per hour. "This is a price which we found to be reasonable and acceptable to people," according to Sharif Ghazi, who has been managing director of AW for seven years.

These hourly rates cover the time it takes the aircraft to go from base to base. But since there are two other regional sub-bases in the far for the customer travelling within the Middle East is lower. If a passenger wishes to travel from Amman to Doha, for example, AW would charge for a trip calculated as Amman-Doha-Bahrain, rather than Amman-Doha-Bahrain-Amman. Therefore, these two sub-bases



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses an Arab Thought Forum session on the social and economic dimensions of the Lebanese crisis (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Mayors, municipal council heads urged to address public demands

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber Saturday urged heads of municipal councils to interact with their local communities with the purpose of identifying the public's demands, problems and proposals, in order to pave the way for improving public and municipal services.

Addressing 39 heads of municipal councils and mayors gathered at a seminar on higher administration in municipal affairs, the minister said that the mayor should be regarded as the first person responsible for the town, and that the mayor should work towards upgrading services and benefiting from scientific and technological development.

The mayor's work should focus on promoting municipal services, meeting the growing demands of a rapidly increasing population and the changes in the social structure, Jaber noted.

He said that many municipalities still suffer from negative attitudes among administrators,

which tends to complicate work and retard development. Some mayors do not abide by the promises and pledges made to their townspeople before elections, and some tend to carry out projects in one area and neglect others, the minister explained.

The municipality, he said, is a social institution and not a mere building, and should deal with the public accordingly.

He urged mayors and heads of councils to give proper attention to organisational matters while implementing public service projects in their regions.

In addition, Jaber said that these administrators should try to stimulate social and cultural life through establishing public libraries and initiating other activities. He said that Jordanian municipalities ought to prepare themselves for the advent of the 21st century by preparing studies and plans for improving social, cultural, economic and administrative functions, and through establishing data banks on services that can be

sources of information for further planning.

Dean of the Yarmouk University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Dr. Abdul Bari Al Durra also addressed the meeting, underlining the need to coordinate the efforts of all concerned parties in implementing service projects.

Durra was representing Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan. The university helped organise the six-day seminar.

The participants will discuss the implementation of development projects, mayoral skills, project planning, employing technology and enlisting the help of specialists in managing municipal affairs, handling financial resources, city and village organisation.

The mayors and heads of councils will be taken to Yarmouk University on the last day of the seminar for a final session and a tour of municipal councils in Irbid Governorate.

## Prince Hassan urges Arab assistance to Lebanon in efforts to overcome crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Decisionmakers in the Arab World have many lessons to learn from the Lebanese problem, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told a session of the Arab Thought Forum Saturday.

Addressing a session on the Lebanese war in a speech read on his behalf by Mr. Akram Zu'aiter, the Crown Prince stressed that there was a need to "understand the socioeconomic elements that could contribute to solving the crisis." He pointed to the difficult economic and living conditions suffered by the Lebanese for the past three years.

"There is a lesson we, Arabs, must learn from the Lebanese war, related to the duty of the state towards the society," Prince Hassan said.

"If we all agreed that the state is a comprehensive legitimate authority whose mission is to control social interactions as a prerequisite for peace, then we should think deeply about the nature of the ideal state if we want to develop the society," he continued.

The Crown Prince said that "a state which the society seeks to destroy is unfeasible, as the state loses its raison d'être and becomes vulnerable to outside intervention."

Prince Hassan said that intellectuals should be seeking "a contract between the state and the society, and a creative balance in which the state serves as a fence around the society — a means of control and a tool of development."

The Arab Thought Forum, he said, seeks to strengthen the ties

of Arab societies, firmly rejecting all forms of factional and religious discrimination.

He told the forum that Arabs should benefit from the harmonious atmosphere created in the wake of the Amman Arab summit to push forward joint Arab action, and extend a hand to help Lebanon surpass its crisis, end its civil war and restore peace.

Participants in the session on the social and economic dimensions of the Lebanese crisis discussed many aspects of the Lebanese problem, including demographic changes and the psychological effects of the war on Lebanese people.

**Crown Prince comments on working papers**

Prince Hassan, who arrived at the session later, commented on the working papers presented to the meeting, and paid tribute to the Lebanese people for their serious attempts to deal with their problems.

One of the papers on the Lebanese situation, the Crown Prince said, presented three different conceptions of Lebanon's future: further deterioration in the situation, agreement among the factions and parties on a

formula for a solution, and a pluralistic rebellion that would cancel the other two scenarios.

But on the whole, Prince Hassan said, one could detect positive elements in the attempts in these papers to tackle the crisis in Lebanon. "Positive factors in the papers are, in fact, in greater number than in those papers that tackled Jordan's social and economic crises in 1971," he said. Despite difficulties, the Kingdom was then able to raise \$600 million in loans and grants to invest in development projects. Prince Hassan added.

The Crown Prince echoed a call by acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss for the attainment of at least a minimum level of consensus among Lebanese groups on a formula for resolving their problem.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that, in the next three months, the Lebanese people and the different parties and factions would arrive at such consensus to deal with their battered economy.

The Crown Prince then referred to the economic situation in the Southeast Asia region which includes Lebanon and Jordan, among other Arab countries, and praised the important bilateral agreements concluded between Arab countries and the European Community.

He said that these agreements, coupled with the participation of Japan in the region's development, clearly represented part of an overall international cooperation.

## GUVS council stresses aid to W. Bank, Gaza

AMMAN (Petra) — General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) President Abdullah Al Khatib Saturday said that the financial aid which the union provided to charitable societies in the Kingdom in 1987 reached JD 1,032,000. He said that nearly JD 30,000 from this total was given to charitable societies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to support the steadfastness of Palestinians.

Khatib was speaking at a meeting of the GUVS executive council held Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat.

The minister paid tribute to the

Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and said that the union had been combating poverty, hunger and disease in the East and West Banks.

Ureikat noted that the ministry was considering creating a higher council for social development to organise the work of charitable societies and social organisations.

The Kingdom's general mufti, Sheikh Izuddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, who is also the chairman of the piaster-a-day charity scheme, said that 190 students from the East and the West banks benefitted from the JD 106,000 in financial aid distributed through the scheme last year.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Obeidi returns from Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Mahdi Al Obeidi Friday returned from Tunisia where he took part in the meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council. Obeidi said that the meeting discussed the financial situations of Arab League organisations. Obeidi expressed his hope that member states would pay their contributions due to these organisations, in order to enable them implement their programmes.

### Teacher training course opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) opens a course here today for training kindergarten teachers. The course will focus in particular on training the 15 participants teaching methods for kindergartens in rural regions.

### Meeting to address technical education

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Technical Education Federation Council will open a two week meeting in Amman Sunday to discuss a number of studies on planning technical education programmes in the Arab World. The meeting, to be opened by Minister of Higher Education Nasereddin Al Assad, will also hold a workshop on teaching methods, planning tests and the use of computers in teaching.

## CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION

The Public Energy and Electricity Services Office in Irbid plans to launch a children's drawing competition on subjects pertaining to energy saving and energy rationing.

### Conditions:

- Participants should not be above 13 years of age.
- Drawings should be 35 x 28 cm.
- Names and addresses of competitors should appear clearly on the backs of their drawings.
- Drawings should be submitted to the Irbid office through the children's schools or charitable societies by Feb. 28, 1988.

For more information, call the Public Energy and Electricity Services Office in Irbid, tel. 243647; P.O. Box 46.

The Public Energy and Electricity Services Office - Irbid.



One of the three Sabreliner 75A's being serviced at the Arab Wings hangar.







# Forgive and forget

International banks are changing their attitudes to Third World debts. David Lascelles and Alexander Nicoll review progress.

LONDON — After five years of dogged crisis management, cracks are widening in the strategies adopted by both debtors and creditors in handling the Third World debt problem. Although this implies a weakening in the solidarity which both sides, particularly the banks, have striven to maintain, it could also open the way to new progress.

The cracks have been opened — on the debtors' side — by a greater determination to test new ideas and — on the banks' side — by a growing readiness to recognise formally that many of the loans will never be fully repaid.

The background to this change was set by Brazil's declaration of an interest payments moratorium last February, still not ended, although recently some interest was paid. Subsequently, most of the world's large banks decided to make large provisions against their Third World loans: 25-35 per cent among the large U.S. banks who have the greatest exposure.

In the past few days, some important regional U.S. banks have taken their provisions to about 50 per cent of non-trade-related loans to problem countries. There is an element of competition in this: the bigger the provision, the stronger the bank, the less encumbered its future planning. But it also implies that banks are moving towards a position where they can actually write off their LDC loans on the assumption that they will never be repaid, as some have begun to do.

Such moves would have been unthinkable in the first throes of the debt crisis when many banks could have been bankrupted by their Third World loans. Now they are better capitalised, and strategically more inclined to bear the cost if it frees them from the burden and tedium of constant worry and rescheduling.

## Bankers differ

Many bankers still feel strongly that the larger, middle-income debtors such as Brazil and Mexico can and should continue to service their debts. Other bankers are more prepared to take what they can get.

Such shifts in the attitudes of both debtors and creditors could upset the delicate balancing act which has staved off disaster so far. Indeed, the World Bank has expressed reservations about recent trends in the relationship between the two.

In a report, it said that higher provisioning by banks and build-up of arrears by debtors "threaten to break the mould in which the management of debt problems has been seen since 1982." Provisions, it argues, reduce banks' incentive to continue participating in new loans, and conversely payments suspensions make it harder for debtors to negotiate with creditors. It called for greater co-operation between the two sides and more leadership from governments in the industrialised world.

This co-operation could be forthcoming — as long as banks are prepared to use their provisions to build more flexibility into their negotiating positions.

The differing views among bankers have been spotlighted by Mexico's innovative loans-for-bonds scheme, announced in December. Effectively, this invites banks to compete with each other

to take what are intended to be once-and-for-all losses on their Mexican loans. It is still far from clear how many banks will participate in this month's auction.

Like other debtors, Mexico has watched banks not only making provisions but also trading loans among themselves at about half their face value. It sees this as an admission by banks that there is little chance of the loans being fully repaid, and is chagrined that it is still expected to service them at full value.

## Mexico's plan

Mexico's plan is evidence of debtors' growing frustration with a rescheduling process which appears to condemn them to years of heavy debt-service payments without the resources to finance significant economic growth. Latin American debtors have found it increasingly difficult to reconcile the demands of foreign creditors for economic adjustment with domestic political constraints. Already this year, Brazil — in bankers' eyes — has gone back on a promise to keep interest payments current from the beginning of 1988. It says it never made such an undertaking to end its payments moratorium.

The Mexican plan attempts to capture the discount at which loans are trading. It invites banks to tender existing loans in return for a smaller amount of bonds. These would be of better quality than the loans they replace — principal but not interest will have U.S. government backing — and would pay a better return.

Banks cannot help but welcome such a positive scheme which is in line with their own "menu" approach of alternative financing methods, designed to freshen what was clearly a worn-out debt strategy. Indeed, the Mexican bonds are really an elaboration of so-called "exit bonds" which excuse the banks taking them from participating in future new loans.

For each bank, however, the offer involves complex mathematics depending largely on individual capital, position and regulatory environment. Which course of action produces the best return?

— To bid aggressively and take a substantial loss on the loans tendered — taking a bond which is likely itself to fall to a discount? — To sell loans for cash instead? — To take no action at all, hoping that Mexico's eased debt burden will actually enhance the quality of existing loans?

## An important precedent

More fundamentally, this plan forces each bank to consider its future strategy and the adequacy of its provisions. It will set an important precedent if it is successful in attracting enough competitive bids. Banks which take part will have to write off a portion of their existing loans, accepting for good that they will not be fully repaid.

It is significant that the plan carries the stamp of Morgan Guaranty Trust, the New York bank which is acting as Mexico's agent. This is one of the biggest lenders and a member of the

advisory committees which have governed the banking community's strategy of rescheduling debt over longer maturities.

Gonzalo de las Heras, the Morgan executive responsible for Latin America, insists that the scheme does not undermine existing debt strategy by setting a precedent for debt forgiveness. Accepting the bonds, he says in volves "voluntary debt forgiveness in the sense that you are given something that you like more than what you have."

## Debt forgiveness

However, certain banks have already written off some of their debts. Bankers are quick to point out that this is not the same as debt forgiveness, but it is easy for debtors to equate the two.

Two medium-size American banks, the Bank of Boston and American Express Bank, plan to write off \$200 million and \$80 million respectively of Latin American loans. Both were keen to point out the advantages of taking their write-offs. Robert Smith, chairman of Amer. Bank, described the bank's whole package of LDC debt reduction measures as part of "an orderly exit from cross-border lending", which would give his bank more flexibility.

Ira Stepanian, president of the Bank of Boston, said it would reduce his bank's exposure to the Third World as well as its future reliance on interest income from the loans. And, freed of the worry, he can now get on with his other plans.

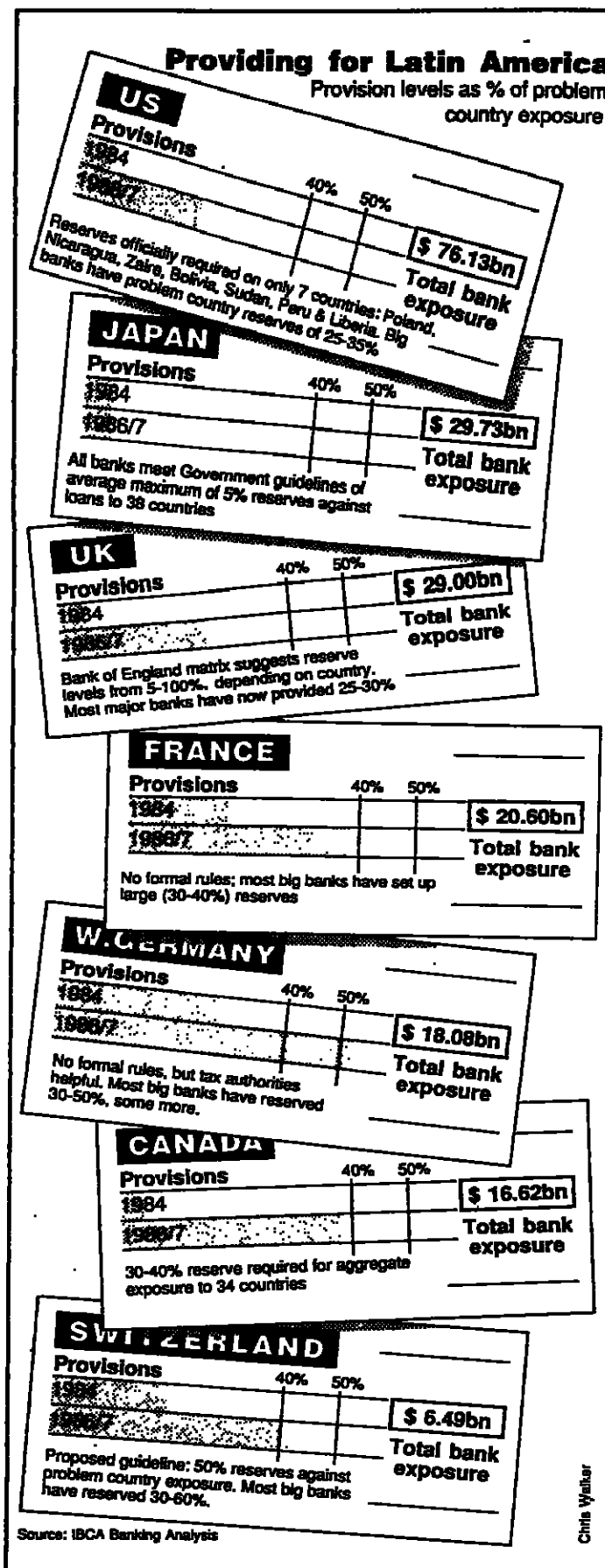
But other bankers both in Europe and the U.S. are less enthusiastic about taking the same route, for several reasons: — Principle. To forgive Third World debts would set a precedent which could be damaging to other parts of the banks' loan portfolios, and involve them in further losses. It would also weaken their bargaining power with the debtor nations. All this would outweigh whatever political credit the banks might earn for valuing their Third World loans at more realistic levels.

— Impact on Bank Strength. U.S. banks still count the provisions as part of their "primary capital", the key determinant of balance sheet strength. So big write-offs would weaken their capital ratios and force them to raise more funds in the market. However, under the new international bank capital proposals of the Cooke Committee, countries will have to phase provisions out of the capital calculations, so there may be more room for manoeuvre in the longer run. In Europe, banks are better placed to make write-offs.

But in the U.K., banks are being pressed by the Bank of England to move only at the pace of the slowest runners — Standard Chartered Bank, Midland Bank and Lloyds Bank — whose LDC exposure is relatively the highest.

— Solidarity. Few bankers are willing to take a bold step of their own. John Reed, chairman of Citicorp, who triggered last year's provisions, is unlikely to do the same on write-offs. He has stated his firm opposition to them, and Citicorp could not afford such a move because of the balance sheet effects.

— No Logic. Bankers argue that write-offs would make little or no contribution to easing the Third World debt burden, unless they went one stage further and forgave the debt they had written down. This they are not prepared



to do. Both Bank of Boston and Amer. Bank said they still expected to be repaid in full — and they will use any interest they receive in the meantime to write down other debts. The Mexican scheme involved a commitment to forgive debt, which is why so many banks oppose it.

Consistent involvement in rescheduling and calls for new money. A bank writing off its debt would not escape any obligation to participate in future efforts to raise new loans to help finance interest payments — unless it has formally agreed to forgive the debt. So it would not shake off the problem of being a Third World creditor.

The debate about write-offs is sharpened by doubts over which loans should be written down and by how much. The loans which Bank of Boston and Amer. wrote off were to specific types of borrowers, which they did not identify, although Amer. said its loans were all in the private sector. Bankers could argue with some force, however, that there is no need to write off loans totally — which continue to trade at 50 per cent of their face value in the secondary market. However,

# Protesters clash with Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

points in Abu Tor on the 1948 ceasefire line dividing West Jerusalem from the Arab eastern sector.

Arab residents in the northern Jerusalem neighbourhood of Anot blocked the road to the Jewish suburb of Neve Yaacov with burning tyres. Police dispersed them with tear-gas.

Palestinians in Arab neighbourhoods on Mount Scopus threw stones at Israeli vehicles but no injuries were reported. In the West Bank town of Jericho, protesters hurled rocks at the car of Israeli-appointed Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf, smashing the windshield, the Palestine Press Service reported. There were no injuries.

In the Azeh village near Bethlehem, soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition to disperse protesters, the Palestine Press Service said.

An army spokesman said there were stone-throwing incidents at several villages and Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank.

Reporters trying to enter Hebron were turned back by troops. Eight Palestinians were shot by soldiers and 21 were admitted to hospital after being beaten by troops during protests in the occupied territories Friday. The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, toured the Gaza Strip, where the protests began in December, and pronounced the area "calm."

## New settlements

Israeli Radio, meanwhile, said the government would soon begin construction of three new settlements near the "green line."

## Murphy in Syria

(Continued from page 1)

from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Assad, but would not disclose its contents. "No further details," he said before boarding the car of U.S. Ambassador William E. Bagley.

Before leaving Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the U.S. objective was "face-to-face negotiations to resolve the problems which have existed for so long between Israel and its neighbours."

Murphy was expected to visit Saudi Arabia and Israel as part of his Middle East tour.

"This affirms continuation of the American policy in its way which is hostile to our people and our cause," it said in a communiqué issued Friday night.

## Qadhafi ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

fact. "In truth, I am very happy and incapable of expressing what I feel about my pride in my brother Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali and his collaborators," Qadhafi said before leaving Tunis.

The visit was Qadhafi's first to Tunisia since 1984. Qadhafi also met Saturday with Chadli Klibi, secretary-general of the Tunis-based Arab League. Qadhafi flew to Annaba in eastern Algeria to meet with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

# New U.S. 'initiative' draws doubts

(Continued from page 1)

professor of political science at the University of Jordan Kamel Abu Jaber, head of the Amman World Affairs Council.

According to Abu Jaber, Reagan will not engage actively in the region lest his party's chances of winning the presidential elections are undermined. Reagan also appears to be careful not to damage his own retirement plans which would need the support of the American community, which is heavily influenced by the Zionists, Abu Jaber said.

But even if the U.S. is serious about reactivating the peace process, the direction that any initiative would take will be influenced by the inherent American-Israeli relationship, said Parliament member Fuad Faraj.

Faraj sees no hope that the U.S. will shift its support for Israel since Israel serves specific American interests in the region. These interests, according to Faraj, include maintaining the fragmentation of the Arab world (started by the British colonialists), creating political unrest in the region and consequently ensuring a stable market for American arms.

Furthermore, Faraj argues, due to the special Israeli role in promoting American interests and playing a pivotal part in some of the American covert operations in the region and elsewhere, Israel has acquired a "blackmailing power on the U.S."

For most analysts this pessimistic outlook was only enhanced by the American attitude towards the Palestinian uprising though some argued that the U.S. position was undergoing real changes.

A staunch advocate of this view is a former minister and the leader of the Democratic Unionist gathering, Jamal Al Shaer, who believes that the Palestinian uprising has made Washington reconsider its position on the Middle East problem.

## Uprising created new facts

"The Palestinian uprising has reminded the Americans that the Palestinian question cannot be shelved," said Shaer. He also argued that the uprising might have changed the American perception of the situation in the occupied territories and of a possible settlement to the problem. "The uprising has clearly proved that what the people want is not an improvement of the quality of life but an end to the occupation," he said.

In his opinion, the uprising has created new facts which have further influenced the American position. These new factors include the split within the American Jewish community, the differences among world Jewish leaders and a changing attitude of the American public towards Israel.

The American administration is also concerned not to alienate its Arab allies "who support and admire the American democracy," according to Shaer.

According to this analysis, it has now become an American interest to move towards reviving the peace process. "The Americans feel that there is something they can do to limit the Soviet role," said Shaer.

Shaer's views are shared by a former Jordanian diplomat. "The U.S. feels isolated and cornered and has to do something to appease the Arab countries," said the former diplomat.

But he expressed doubts that the American move will meet Arab demands or expectations. He noted that all ideas which had been "leaked" to the press so far fell short of fulfilling the Arab demands for an international peace conference and addressing the Palestinian question in all of its aspects.

"Therefore, what is the use of any American move if it cannot be accepted by the parties involved?" he asked. "The U.S. is not helping the Arab governments to take any step further."

## 'No more than a tactic'

Other analysts go further by arguing that any new American step or initiative will not be more than a tactic to quell the uprising by creating the illusion to the Arab governments that there is still hope and bypassing the call for an international peace conference.

This view is shared by Arar, Abu Jaber and Saleh. "In my view, whatever the U.S. is suggesting aims at gaining time to enable Israel to crush the Palestinian uprising and at excluding the idea of an international peace conference," Arar said.

Seen in this context, the same analysts did not rule out the possibility that the U.S. would try to build upon the old-negotiated concept of "self-rule."

They believe that the U.S. position has drawn closer to the Israeli right-wing Likud party, which calls for "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the occupied territories within a one-year interim period.

## Israeli politics

Abu Jaber commented: "The Palestinian uprising is working against the Labour Party and for Likud because of the composition of the Israeli electorate, seen in the shift to the right in Israeli polls. Washington is also watching this trend and they like to support a winner."

But a Palestinian analyst said that it was unlikely that the Americans would endorse "self-rule" by itself "since it has been already rejected by Jordan."

"Therefore, a new American initiative should include new ingredients that would make it appealing to Arab governments and at least to a segment of the population in the occupied territories," he said.

According to the same analyst, one of the American objectives of floating new ideas could be to create "a split in the united Palestinian front in the territories and within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Shaer strongly opposes such an assessment. He argues that the Arab countries and the PLO should seize the opportunity and seriously consider the new American proposals.

He even supports a reported, albeit unconfirmed, American plan, to hold municipal council elections in the occupied territories, thus forming some form of Palestinian "self-rule" pending the convening of an international peace conference in September.

# New age crystals not just another pretty rock

By Anna Sobkowski  
Reuters

NEW YORK — For years crystals were used to keep radios tuned, watches accurate, and computers running. One type was even a girl's best friend.

Now the old dependable crystal has become a "new age" phenomenon — part of the mix of spiritualism and self-improvement in vogue in the 1980s.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States now use crystals for everything from curing headaches and energising their sex lives to making contact with past lives or outer space.

Donna Sessler, a jewellery designer who calls herself "a spiritual gemologist and healer," describes crystals as "life force, God force, God in action in physical form."

Crystals are rocks, but not all rocks are crystals. While the molecular structure of rocks is random, the crystalline structure is beautifully ordered.

To achieve this order — which goes against the universal tendency towards entropy, or chaos — tremendous energy is required over long periods.

A former suburban teacher, Sessler is now a minister in the Church of Traddi, "a universal metaphysical church of truth and light for the coming age of aquarius." She teaches on crystals at an adult education centre.

Three dozen people, young and elderly, devotee and novice, packed a classroom recently to listen as Sessler, who has been studying crystals for 11 years, extolled their virtues.

## Love your crystal

"How do you clear a cloudy crystal?" (If you love a crystal it will clear for you, Sessler advised).

"How can you use crystals to get a good night's sleep?" (arrange them under the mattress in the form of a triangle).

"What are chakras?" (there are seven chakras, or energy centres on the body. A crystal applied to the navel chakra, for example, will increase the power to love).

One young woman wondered why holding certain crystals made her dizzy. Sessler explained she could be "over-amped" by the intense energy emanating from crystals and recommended holding a "grounding" stone to counteract the effect.

## A cure for every ailment

Sessler uses many types of crystals for healing, including agate for hardening tender gums, azurite for revitalising damaged tissue, diamond for respiratory problems, garnet for helping the liver get rid of toxins, and green tourmaline for soothing the

nerves. Although healers have their own ideas about which crystals work for a specific illness, most believe crystals heal by emitting beneficial vibrations when applied to the chakras.

But while the number of crystal believers is growing steadily, not everybody is ready to sing their praises.

"A loony trend that originated in the loony centres of the country," is how Dr. George Harlow, Curator of mineral sciences at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, describes the fad.

"To all the healers and followers I say 'show me proof' they can't, because there is no proof," Harlow, who believes scientists should be more outspoken in debunking outlandish claims, maintains. "Their beliefs go against the scientific method, which is that all physical principles work the same for all people. In the new age world of crystals, certain people can make crystals do things that others can't."

Harlow also believes the trend is dangerous if people abandon traditional medicine for dubious healing methods.

Richard Berger, the founder of Crystal Resources, a store on Manhattan's smart East Side, is also impatient with some of the claims about crystals.

"People are constantly coming into the store with a specific ache

or pain asking for the right crystal," he said, scoffing at what he calls "the take two tourmalines and call me in the morning school of healing."

But he does believe in the power of crystals to heal, which he says comes from using them as "tools to be still with, to meditate with, to help explore your inner reality."

## No scientific proof

Despite the lack of scientific proof of their powers, crystals are big business. Twelve crystal stores now operate in the New York area alone, and more than 2,000 new age bookstores around the country sell a steady stream of books on the subject — often with conflicting and widely diverging claims.

Even Bergdorf Goodman, the Fifth Avenue department store, has a line of crystal jewellery, including chunks of quartz encased in bamboo pendants selling for up to \$4,000, by trendy designer Tina Chow.

A recent message from Chow in the main floor display case read, "Don't think of these as fashion jewellery but more as personal amulets and power pieces... I believe they are healing pieces and tools for clearing oneself."

The store reports the line has been selling briskly.

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# Liverpool stumbles against West Ham; Luton beats Oxford

**LONDON (Agencies)** — Runaway leaders Liverpool suffered a rare indignity Saturday when they stumbled to a 0-0 draw at home to West Ham and found themselves outplayed by the goal exploits of two of the English First Division's least fashionable clubs.

While Liverpool struggled to extend their club record unbeaten start to the season to 25 matches, Luton beat Oxford 7-4 in an extraordinary clash in front of only 8,000 fans at Kenilworth Road.

Liverpool's point against West Ham kept them 15 points clear of Nottingham Forest and Manchester United at the top. Forest beat Chelsea 3-2 and United, 30 years to the day after the Munich air disaster killed eight of the "Busby Babes," beat Coventry 1-0.

Luton, unbeaten in eight games, made a storming start against Oxford and led 2-0 after only 19 minutes thanks to goals from Mick Harford and Brian Stein.

But Oxford fought back to make it 3-2 at the interval, Dean Saunders with a penalty and Martin Foyle sandwiching another Luton strike from Darron McDougall.

Luton striker Mark Stein then scored an 11-minute hat-trick at the start of the second half, Oxford replying through Richard Hill, to put the home team 6-3 ahead and further goals followed from Harford and Les Phillips before the final whistle.

The two teams meet again Wednesday at Oxford in an English League Cup semifinal first leg.

In Scotland, Glasgow Celtic stayed ahead of city rivals Rangers at the top of the Premier League, but Rangers' 2-1 win at Aberdeen was marred by the dismissal of international defender

Richard Gough.

Liverpool, missing Gary Gillespie and Ronnie Whelan from their regular side, had several chances to win against West Ham, but were wayward with their finishing and had to settle for only their sixth draw in 25 unbeaten league outings. It was, however, their 10th successive match without conceding a goal.

Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough had his son Nigel to thank for his team's narrow win over Chelsea. Striker Clough returned to the team after injury for the first time since boxing day and scored the winner with a 60th minute penalty.

Earlier, the second-placed team — who still lead Manchester United on goal difference — had gone into a 2-0 lead with goals from Colin Foster and new boy Gary Crosby before Chelsea responded early in the second half with two goals in four minutes from Kerry Dixon and Kevin Wilson.

Most of the spotlight fell on Old Trafford, home of Manchester United. Players and fans of United and visiting Coventry City observed an emotional one minute's silence to mark the 30th anniversary of the Munich air crash.

The accident, which occurred on Feb. 6, 1958, took place as the United team, under the management of Matt Busby, was on its way home from a European champions cup match in Belgrade.

Most of the team, known as the

"Busby Babes" and at the time one of the world's most exciting club sides, was wiped out.

After Saturday's silent tribute, Liam O'Brien made sure the anniversary co-incided with a United victory, scoring the only goal of the game after four minutes to keep United in third spot on 48 points.

With Everton and Arsenal playing Sunday in the first leg of their English League Cup semi-final, Queens Park Rangers took the opportunity to move up between them into fifth position with a 2-0 victory over bottom club Charlton.

Mark Falco headed Rangers ahead shortly before halftime and substitute John Byrne netted the second midway through the second period.

Wimbledon dropped back a place to seventh after being held 0-0 at home by Newcastle.

Two goals in the last 12 minutes from captain Mel Sterland and striker Lee Chapman earned Sheffield Wednesday a 2-1 win over Southampton who had taken an early lead when striker Colin Clarke scored the 100th league goal of his career from the penalty spot.

Portsmouth were also 2-1 winners against fellow-strugglers Derby for whom winger Ted McMinn, signed from Spanish First Division club Seville in mid-week, made a promising debut.

A mistake by England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who failed to hold on to a cross, gifted Vince Hilaire Portsmouth's opening goal. Mark Wright equalised, but Mick Quinn hit a late winner for Portsmouth.

Norwich and Watford's clash — billed in advance as a relegation showdown — ended in a 0-0 draw.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

**LONDON (AP)** — Standings after Saturday's British soccer matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points):

English League										
Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Liverpool	25	19	6	0	59	11	63			
Nottingham Forest	25	14	6	5	49	23	48			
Manchester United	26	13	9	4	39	25	48			
Everton	25	12	7	6	36	16	43			
Queens Park Rangers	26	12	7	7	32	28	43			
Arsenal	26	12	6	8	37	25	42			
Wimbledon	26	11	8	7	39	30	41			
Luton	25	11	5	9	39	30	38			
Sheffield Wednesday	26	11	4	11	33	39	37			
Newcastle	25	8	9	8	30	35	33			
Tottenham	26	9	6	11	26	31	33			
Southampton	26	8	8	10	34	38	32			
West Ham	26	7	10	9	28	34	31			
Chelsea	27	8	7	12	33	45	31			
Portsmouth	27	6	11	10	26	43	29			
Norwich	26	7	5	14	23	33	26			
Coventry	24	6	7	11	24	39	25			
Derby County	24	6	6	12	21	30	24			
Watford	26	5	8	13	17	32	23			
Oxford	25	6	5	14	32	53	23			
Charlton	26	4	8	14	23	40	20			

Scottish League										
Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Celtic	31	20	9	2	57	19	49			
Rangers	32	20	6	6	60	22	46			
Hibernian	32	17	12	3	60	24	46			
Aberdeen	32	16	12	4	45	19	44			
Dundee	31	14	6	11	58	40	34			
Dundee United	32	11	10	11	34	36	32			
Hibernian	32	8	13	11	29	35	29			
St. Mirren	31	7	11	13	33	45	25			
Motherwell	32	9	6	17	26	44	24			
Falkirk	32	6	8	18	30	59	20			
Dumfries	31	5	8	18	24	60	18			
Morton	32	2	9	21	22	75	13			

## Scottish Premier League

In Scotland, Andy Walker hit the only goal of the game to secure Celtic's 1-0 home win over Motherwell and Rangers, inspired by player-manager Graeme Souness, won a stormy match at Aberdeen 2-1.

England goalkeeper Chris Woods, returning to the team after four weeks out with injured ribs, was Rangers' hero with a

series of fine saves after Gough was sent off for tripping Willie Falconer in the 54th minute.

Ally McCoist and Gough had put Rangers 2-0 ahead by half-time, but Jim Ebert pulled a goal back with a 46th minute penalty.

Hearts moved up to third and proved their challenge remains a powerful one by thrashing St. Mirren 6-0 on their own ground.

# Edberg, Jarryd ensure place for Sweden in second round of Davis Cup

**GAVLE, Sweden (Agencies)** — Doubles partners Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd Saturday booked Sweden's place in the second round of the Davis Cup World Group competition with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 win over New Zealand's Kelly Evernden and David Lewis.

The victory gave defending champions Sweden an unbeatable 3-0 lead without having lost a set ahead of Sunday's reverse singles matches.

The outcome was never really in doubt, with the Swedes taking only 24 minutes to win the first set on the strength of a devastating display of accurate first serves from both players.

Sweden, which has won the Davis Cup three times in the last four years, increased its winning streak in Davis Cup play to eight matches with Saturday's doubles triumph. The Swedes, led by Mats Wilander, whipped India 5-0 in last December's final on indoor clay at Goteborg, Sweden, losing just one set.

Wilander, the Australian Open champion, did not play here because he is taking six weeks off. But he has said he will play in the second round April 8-10, when Sweden is likely to get the home-court advantage against Czechoslovakia. The Czechs led Paraguay 2-0 after the opening singles in Prague.

In another World Group game, Slobodan Zivojinovic overcame the experience of his opponents and the inexperience of his own

partner to spur Yugoslavia to a 2-1 lead over India in New Delhi.

Zivojinovic, partnered by 21-year-old Goran Prpic, wore down Vijay and Anand Amritraj to win the doubles clash 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 9-7.

Indian number one Ramesh Krishnan meets Bruno Oresic and Vijay Amritraj plays Zivojinovic in the reverse singles Sunday.

"Bobo" Zivojinovic, one of the biggest servers in the game, and the wily Vijay were forced to play dominant roles to compensate for their partners fallibility in serving and their net play.

In Palermo, Sicily, Israel's Amos Mansdorf and Shahar Perkiss beat Paolo Cane and Diego Nargiso 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Italy leads Israel 2-1 at the end of the second day of competition. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia kept its Davis Cup hopes alive when Chow Chin Chuan and Veera Selvam won their doubles match to deny Sri Lanka the winning point it was seeking in their tennis tie.

Sri Lanka had taken a 2-0 lead through the singles matches Friday and was hoping to wrap up the tie through brothers Arjun and Sujit Fernando but had to concede its doubles match while trailing 5-7, 7-9 because Arjun suffered an ankle injury.

Chow lost to Umesh Wallooppillai and Selvam to Arjun Friday. They will meet in Sunday's reverse singles to decide which team qualifies to meet Pakistan in the second round.

In Accra, Kenya took a 2-0 lead over Ghana after the opening singles matches of the Davis Cup African Zone Group Two tie Friday.

Eno Polo beat Franklin Ofori 4-6, 6-0, 6-0, 9-7 and Paul Wekesa beat Kojo Atiso 6-4, 6-2, 6-1.

In Jakarta, Indonesian Suharyadi defeated Thanakorn Sirachant of Thailand 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 Saturday to give his team a 2-0 lead over Thailand in the Asian-Oceania zone.

In Mexico City, Australia was ahead one match to zero and up a set in the second in its first round Davis Cup tie with Mexico Friday, when bad light halted competition for the day.

In the second singles match, Australian Wally Masur took the first set 6-3 from Mexican Francisco Maciel and the two were tied at two games each in the second set when play was suspended.

The match was to be resumed Saturday before the scheduled doubles encounter.

Earlier in the day, in a five hour, four set marathon, Pat Cash defeated Leonardo Lavalle to put Australia one match up. Playing before 8,000 partisan Mexican fans, Cash defeated Lavalle 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 11-9.

Last year's Wimbledon champion Cash appeared to have difficulties with the rough clay court and the noisy crowd but was able to overpower the tenacious Lavalle.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Alen wins Swedish Motor Rally

**KARLSTAD (R)** — Finland's Markku Alen drove his Lancia to victory Saturday in the Swedish Motor Rally, the second event of the 1988 World Championship. Sweden Stig Blomqvist was second in a Ford, followed by compatriot Lars Erik Torph in an Audi.

### France wins four-nation tournament

**MONACO (R)** — France, fallen European champions, won a four-nation soccer tournament when they defeated Morocco 2-1 in the final Friday. Striker Yannick Stopyra headed both French goals, one in each half, from passes by Jean-Marc Ferreri to give the home team a little encouragement after a dire slide since the 1986 World Cup finals. But the victory over a team shorn of its best players was not wholly convincing and France still have a long way to go as they try to rebuild their fortunes following the departure of Michel Platini and most of the key players who lifted them to two World Cup semifinals. Switzerland, beaten 2-1 by France in Toulouse Tuesday, took third place with a 2-1 win over Austria, their first over their Alpine neighbors in 20 years.

### Foreman stops Italian titleholder

**LAS VEGAS (R)** — Former American heavyweight world champion George Foreman continued his successful comeback when he stopped Italian champion Guido Trane in the fifth round here Friday night. The 39-year-old Foreman, who has stopped all seven of his opponents since returning to the ring 11 months ago after a 10-year layoff, had no problem with Trane, halting him at two minutes 39 seconds of the round. The one-sided bout was stopped by the ring physician after Trane suffered a possible broken nose and sustained a deep cut on his left eyelid, both inflicted in the fifth round. Foreman who reigned as heavyweight champion from 1973 to 1974, improved his record to 52-2 (49 knockouts) and is now scheduled to fight Scandinavian champion Anders Eklund of Sweden here March 19.

### Starling retains WBA welter crown

**ATLANTIC CITY (R)** — American Marion Starling made his first successful defense of the World Boxing Association welterweight championship when he outpointed Fujio Ozaki of Japan over 12 rounds here Friday. Judge Wiso Fernandez of Puerto Rico scored the fight 118-110, judge Rodolfo Maldonado of Panama scored it 117-114, and Carlos Sucre of Venezuela had it 117-112 in favor of Starling. Starling improved his record to 45-4 while Ozaki's now stands at 21-5. In other bouts, three-times world champion Roberto Duran of Panama raised his record to 82-7 with an unanimous 10-round decision over American Ricky Stackhouse in a 10-round middleweight contest.

## IOC begins week-long deliberations at Calgary

**CALGARY, Alberta (Agencies)** — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will consider this weekend what sanctions to impose against countries boycotting the games.

IOC Administrator Raymond Gafner told Reuters Friday that a working group set up in December was expected to make a recommendation within the next 48 hours.

The group's views will be considered by a weekend meeting of the IOC executive board before being put forward for ratification by the full IOC session next week.

The IOC must try to resolve the dilemma posed by political boycotts. While it is intent on punishing countries which withdraw from the games after accepting an invitation to compete, it is also eager to avoid imposing further penalties against the athletes.

"In my opinion, it is absolutely clear that we must do something, but we must remain flexible," Gafner said. "There must be some form of sanctions but it must remain possible for the ex-

ecutive board to judge each case separately."

Executive board sources suggested the IOC might seek to resolve the problem by ruling that boycotting countries would be denied a share of the revenue produced by the games.

But there seemed little likelihood of a games ban being imposed on boycotting countries, despite a warning in December by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch that such a measure might be considered.

The Seoul Olympics in September of 1988 have attracted a record entry of 161 nations despite concern over a possible Communist boycott in support of North Korea's demands for a share of the games.

Doping will also be a major issue for the IOC before the Winter Olympics open Feb. 13 and the executive board is expected to consider the case of Nikolai Gulyayev, the Soviet speed skater at the centre of a steroids controversy.

Norwegian officials have alleged Gulyayev sold steroids to Norwegian skater Stein Kroshoy and have asked for the Soviet world champion to be banned from the games.

## Joyner-Kersey, O'Sullivan and Melinte shine at Millrose games

**NEW YORK (R)** — Convincing victories by American Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the long jump and Milers Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland and Doina Melinte of Romania highlighted the Millrose indoor games Friday.

However, the only world indoor best in the 81st Millrose meet at Madison Square Garden went to American Tim Lewis in the mile walk. Lewis' time was five minutes 33.53 seconds as he eclipsed his old mark of 5:38.02 which he set last year.

Melinte came closest to a world record. Her winning time of 4:21.45 was the second fastest in the world. The world indoor record of 4:20.5 was set in 1982 by American Mary Decker.

Melinte, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the 800 metres, took the lead from Briton Kirsty Wade with one lap to go and pulled away. Wade finished second in 4:23.86.

In her indoor season debut, Joyner-Kersey was aiming for the world indoor long jump record of 24 feet, 4 inch (7.32 metres) set by Heike Dreschler of East Germany.

Instead, the reigning world champion in the heptathlon and outdoor long jump had to settle for the Millrose meet record of 22

feet, 8 1/2 inches set on her sixth and final jump.

With seven time Wanamaker mile winner Eamonn Coghlan of Ireland sitting out this meet because of back injury, compatriot O'Sullivan surged to his second Wanamaker mile victory in the last three years in a time of 3:56.89.

O'Sullivan, who beat Coghlan in 1986 and the finished second to him last year, took the lead from another Irish runner, Gerry O'Reilly, with a little more than a lap to go.

Briton Peter Elliott closed the gap down the stretch, but did not have enough power to overtake O'Sullivan.

The expected challenge of world outdoor mile champion Abdi Bile never materialised as the Somali finished fourth in the field of seven.

The world's number one hurdler Greg Foster of the U.S. chased down rival American Renaldo Nehemiah with an explosive midrace burst to win the 55 metre high hurdles in a 7.07 seconds.

Nehemiah faded badly to fifth place behind compatriots Arthur Blake, Cletus Clark and Jack Pierce. Blake was second in 7.10.

Nehemiah, the world record holder in this event, is on the comeback trail after Achilles tendon surgery a year ago and is still struggling to find his old form and technique.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Jordanian-Saudi committee meets tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Developing Jordanian-Saudi economic and trade relations will be the focus of talks to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Monday by the Jordanian-Saudi Joint Economic Committee. The Jordanian side will be led by Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf who will also discuss means of facilitating the flow of goods and travel between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Saqqaf will be accompanied by Industry and Trade, Interior, Transport and Customs officials and representatives from the Royal Scientific Society, and the Amman chambers of industry and commerce.

## Ma'an to spend JD 0.8m on roads, walls

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Works Department in Ma'an Governorate will spend a total of JD 836,000 on roads and maintenance of walls during 1988, according to department director Awad Abu Hileh. He said that work on a number of roads will begin in the coming days according to plans set by the department and approved by the Ministry of Public Works.

## Swiss exhibitions invite Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce has received invitations to take part in a number of international exhibitions to be held in Switzerland this month. These exhibitions will be held in Zurich, Lucerne, Montreux and Berne for displaying products ranging from shoes to industrial goods.

## Algeria offers to build gas pipeline across Morocco

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria has offered to build a gas pipeline across neighbouring Morocco to Europe if a solution to the Western Sahara war begins to emerge, the official news agency APS reported Friday.

Diplomats said the suggestion by President Chadli Benjedid, reported by APS, held out substantial benefits for Morocco in exchange for a peace settlement in the former Spanish colony, where Algeria supports Polisario guerrillas fighting against Moroccan rule.

The president told a meeting of governors Thursday that "in the event that a settlement begins to emerge" in the Western Sahara, Algeria would also reopen its frontiers with Morocco and restore diplomatic relations, the agency said.

Algeria closed its frontier and Morocco broke off relations in 1976 when Polisario guerrillas started their campaign to gain

control of Western Sahara.

After restoring relations, Algeria would also "elaborate joint projects (with Morocco) including the gas pipeline which would benefit our western neighbour," Chadli said, adding that the pipeline would go to Spain and the rest of Europe.

Algeria is stepping up exploitation of its extensive natural gas deposits. Morocco has to import most of its energy.

Morocco favours a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the disputed territory, but it rejects U.N. calls, backed by Algeria, for direct talks with Polisario guerrillas before the vote.

## Algeria to supply gas to Greece and Turkey

APS also reported that Algeria will supply Greece with 12 billion cubic metres of natural gas over a 20-year period under an agreement signed Thursday.

## FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You may feel somewhat confused this morning as to how and with whom the day should be spent. Later in the day, however, conditions will clear up and you will feel much more relaxed and confident.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19):** A recent acquaintance could make you feel quite nervous, so steer clear of this person. Get together with some old friends tonight.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20):** This is a good day to relax and plan your schedule for the coming week. Enjoy your family and friends, but get plenty of rest tonight.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21):** You may not be in the mood for fun this morning, so get busy at those little chores which have been waiting for so long.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21):** Try to rectify a bothersome condition at home before tensions begin to flare. Enjoy a happy evening with your good friends.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21):** You may find it hard to learn the true facts about an important transaction, but later you'll see the information has been right in front of you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22):** Don't worry yourself sick over your

finances; they are in better shape than you think. Study your newspaper for some bargains.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Wait until later in the day before you make any commitments concerning your activities for the week. Have fun with friends tonight.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Show your male how truly devoted you are. Get together with business associates and clear up some point of misunderstanding between you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Associate only with your most understanding friends today, but remember that they have problems, too. Be sure to drive carefully.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20):** Be very cautious in any public dealings, and don't do anything which might endanger your reputation. Work on improving your efficiency.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19):** New contacts you make today can help you advance quickly in your career. Your status could grow in leaps and bounds.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20):** Don't rely on any inner hunch this morning, as they may be quite wrong. Avoid getting into any overly serious discussions with friends.

## THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Muslim judge
- Mountains
- Whit
- Tyrant id
- Robust
- Ordered
- rock
- Susp plant
- Lila - of bricks
- Numerical
- Attraction
- Neatly
- Ally
- Ally
- Felt short
- Rom: Br.
- over
- (meditated)
- Deal with
- Gr. portico
- Pop up
- Silence
- "Old -" (US frigate)
- "A mile is as good as -"
- Religious school: abbr.
- Maple genus
- Wading birds
- Climber
- Chin. weight
- Easy mark
- Label
- Court order
- Fry
- Swing music
- Sidestick
- Air, ruler
- Angry
- North Sea feeder
- In addition
- Enrico Conny

DOWN

- Army off.
- Asian river
- Eastern area
- India
- Tick
- Pernando or Lavaca (Brazilian)
- Sham
- Arise e.g.
- Manila hemp
- So long
- Fragrance
- Darn
- Cite
- Scott
- Gold paint
- "- and hungry look"
- Point in an orb
- Dame
- Intense excitement
- Ripose
- Working leisurely
- Practical old style
- For - sake!
- Brood of pheasants
- "- only a mander"
- Pear-shaped instruments
- Gandhi garb
- Eastern liquor
- Roman orator
- Flash-eating
- Allege
- Polly
- Altogether
- Flow
- Vase de -
- Use swords
- Allege
- Duty

## Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. Muslim judge
2. Mountains
3. Whit
4. Tyrant id
5. Robust
6. Ordered
7. rock
8. Susp plant
9. Lila - of bricks
10. Numerical
11. Attraction
12. Neatly
13. Ally
14. Ally
15. Felt short
16. Rom: Br.
17. over
18. (meditated)
19. Deal with
20. Gr. portico
21. Pop up
22. Silence
23. "Old -" (US frigate)
24. "A mile is as good as -"
25. Religious school: abbr.
26. Maple genus
27. Wading birds
28. Climber
29. Chin. weight
30. Easy mark
31. Label
32. Court order
33. Fry
34. Swing music
35. Sidestick
36. Air, ruler
37. Angry
38. North Sea feeder
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31. Allege
32. Polly
33. Altogether
34. Flow
35. Vase de -
36. Use swords
37. Allege
38. Duty

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Jan. 30, '88 and ending Wednesday, Feb. 3, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	1350	1716	1.270	1.280	1.000
Petra Bank	1000	2100	2.100	2.100	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1730	3144	1.820	1.830	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	19142	31871	1.690	1.680	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	38264	44236	1.210	1.160	1.000
Housing Bank	800	1264	1.600	1.580	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	250	525	2.050	2.100	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	630	17012	26.500	27.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	3394	53019	15.750	16.500	5.000
Arab Bank	490	59855	122.500	121.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	7395	17921	2.430	2.430	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	6000	7290	1.230	1.260	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	15394	21726	1.890	1.920	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	86301	56155	0.660	0.650	1.000
National Financial Investments	5500	8355	1.500	1.530	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	10886	8425	0.780	0.760	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Jordan French Insurance	1457	9276	6.550	6.200	1.000
RESCO Life Insurance	7193	8776	1.240	1.210	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	1000	960	0.950	0.960	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	500	460	0.920	0.920	1.000
Universal Insurance	1000	740	0.730	0.740	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Jadid Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Abilya Insurance	4259	5179	1.200	1.320	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	300	380	1.300	1.280	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	6453	4075	0.650	0.630	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	16700	7465	0.460	0.440	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aparco)	8700	2437	0.430	0.430	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	5470	1750	0.350	0.320	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	24500	2705	0.610	0.610	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance To Jecro	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	7209	10553	1.460	1.470	1.000
Irbit District Electricity	975	937	0.950	0.970	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2250	1823	0.800	0.810	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	54500	22315	0.400	0.410	1.000
Jordan Dairy	8410	8545	3.960	1.060	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	13983	28882	2.090	2.080	1.000
Intermediate Petroleum Industries	24740	359264	1.460	1.430	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	91	218	2.500	2.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	806	1097	1.340	1.360	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1980	9555	4.790	4.850	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	54533	72567	1.330	1.320	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	90860	174985	1.970	1.900	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	569	2561	4.500	4.500	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	6750	7139	1.050	1.060	1.000
Chemical Industries	32248	46650	1.430	1.500	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	128297	98188	0.760	0.750	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	3151	4349	1.360	1.400	1.000
National Steel Industries	10100	27229	2.730	2.680	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	10820	19267	1.770	1.760	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	2800	19799	7.070	7.100	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	1396078	335032	0.210	0.250	1.000
National Industries	2150	1075	0.500	0.500	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	12550	4052	0.300	0.340	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	27293	31835	1.170	1.150	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	210	151	0.710	0.720	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	8600	9818	1.140	1.150	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	3895	11221	2.900	2.890	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	28950	19501	0.680	0.670	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	1850	1324	0.730	0.700	1.000
Jordan Tanning	216	410	1.900	1.900	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	23749	23101	0.970	0.970	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	69159	65629	0.950	0.940	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	113407	323084	3.190	3.110	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	53603	53873	0.990	1.000	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	85720	92575	1.050	1.090	1.000
Grand total	2,777,936	2,269,562			

## Central Bank of Jordan broadens financial trading in government bills, bonds

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has broadened the scope of trading in financial instruments by allowing commercial banks to trade their portfolios of treasury bills and government and development bonds through investment banks and public shareholding financial companies.

Aiming at creating a secondary market for these government bills and bonds (and other debentures issued by major industrial or commercial corporations), the CBJ has been publishing since the beginning of this month a daily "rate of return" for government-denominated financial papers, in a bid to set a price-mechanism for the bills and bonds depending on their maturity dates.

The CBJ lead was taken Saturday by the Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation (JIFC) which published buy/sell prices for two issues of treasury bills maturing on March 1 and April 6, 1988. JIFC said it would soon announce prices for other bonds.

JIFC General Manager Basil Jardaneh said the CBJ would no longer rediscunt the government bills and bonds, and that should any commercial bank or any other entity or individual require funds or liquidity, the secondary market would be the designated pool.

Earlier, the Jordan Times learned that the CBJ had discontinued its requirement that all banks and financial institutions buy treasury bills and govern-

ment bonds for a specific percentage of their deposits.

The measure was often criticised for limiting or straining the liquidity of some banks and, according to Jardaneh, led to unbalanced or unequal funding by the CBJ at later stages.

Economists and bankers expect the new approach to be positive and rewarding in the medium term but, as of now, they say it is just a start and things have yet to be evaluated.

The whole procedure is still not clear and may be defined further in many aspects, according to the CBJ Public Debt Department Director Kamal Al Fanek.

He said that a meeting grouping CBJ officials and representatives from all banks and financial institutions would be held Wednesday at the CBJ to examine the new mechanism.

But, as it stands now, the following additional factors will govern the secondary market for trading government bills and bonds:

— The CBJ will not be the focus in the trading process. The central bank, however, will continue to buy and sell for its own account and at its own discretion, thus influencing market liquidity in general.

— Banks and financial companies in need of liquidity are free to sell their bills and bonds without any condition. Those enjoying excess liquidity are also free to buy the financial instruments without any ceiling for purchases.

— Trading between the commercial banks is forbidden and the buy/sell orders must be registered at the Amman Financial Market and the CBJ.

— The public should trade the bonds and bills at the premises of the Amman Financial Market.

— The prices offered by the designated brokers will be quoted by Reuters, which will also relay any movements in prices throughout the day.

Jardaneh does not expect foreign investors to rush to buy Jordanian government bills and bonds because of higher returns in other world financial centres. But, he and other bankers, expect the market to serve as an important tool to regulate liquidity and to consolidate national savings.

According to some knowledgeable sources the implementation of this new scheme comes at an opportune time, because some banks are awash with liquidity but reluctant to extend credit facilities during the current economic slowdown. As a result, the bills and bonds offer better investments since they bring profits partially exempted from taxes and other fees.

## Iraq cuts cash outflow

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq cut its foreign workforce by nearly one third last year, saving more than \$50 million in hard currency, Industry Minister Hameed Abed Al Rasheed said.

In remarks published on Saturday in Al Qadisiya newspaper, Rasheed said the number of foreigners working in Iraq was reduced by 30 per cent and his ministry also saved Iraq \$100 million in hard currency by switching from imported to local raw materials.

Egyptians, estimated to exceed a million, make up more than 90 per cent of Iraq's foreign manpower. Thousands of Iraqis are in the armed forces fighting Iran in a war now in its eighth year.

Foreigners working in the state sector receive more than half of income in hard currency while those working in the private and mixed sectors get about 25 per cent.

## National Bank of Bahrain maintains \$11.7m profit

BAHRAIN (R) — The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB), the island's oldest bank managed to post 1987 net profit unchanged at 4.4 million dinars (\$11.7 million) despite a difficult business climate during the year.

The bank's chairman, Ahmad Ali Kano, told reporters earnings before provisions for bad and doubtful debts fell to 10.9 million dinars (\$29 million) from 11.4 million dinars (\$30 million) in 1986.

But the fall was offset by a decline in provisions to 6.5 million dinars (\$17 million) from 7.0 million (\$19 million). The bank's dividend payout was unchanged at 2.8 million dinars (\$7.5 million).

## U.S. expects continued rise in oil imports

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. oil consumption and oil imports are expected to continue to rise this year, the Energy Department said in its short term energy outlook released Friday.

It said consumption was expected to grow by less than one per cent in 1988, marking the third consecutive year of increased use.

The department said domestic production would likely fall at a rate between one and two per cent this year, forcing a rise in oil imports to about 36 per cent of consumption, up from last year's 35 per cent.

Imports reached their high in 1977, at 46 per cent.

Department predicts prices to



## India sending 15,000 more troops to crush Tigers

COLOMBO (R) — India is to boost its troop strength in Sri Lanka to about 70,000 in an attempt to crush stubborn resistance by Tamil rebels, Sri Lankan government officials said Saturday.

The officials said 15,000 additional troops are due to arrive. Two Indian army brigades are expected before Feb. 10 and a third by end of the month, they said. That would increase the number of brigades in the island to 15.

The reinforcements would be deployed in the eastern district of Trincomalee and in the Vanni Jungles of the north comprising Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu districts.

"The influx of more troops is to finish the job against the terrorists as soon as possible," a Defence Ministry official said.

Indian military officials here said transport planes arrived at Batticaloa in the east Friday, some of them capable of carrying between 400 to 500 soldiers.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said: "We have moved additional troops into Batticaloa but I am not going to go into operational details about whether there were eight or 15

plane loads."

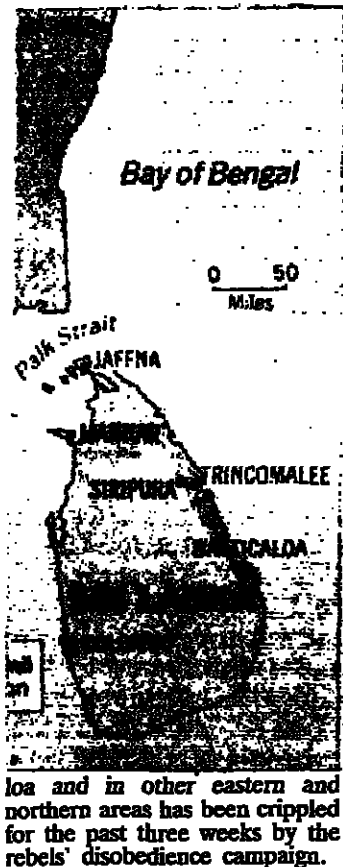
Sri Lankan officials said Indian soldiers in Batticaloa have been pursuing rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who have switched their campaign for a separatist state from the northern provinces to the east.

An Indian peacekeeping force was sent to the island's northern and eastern provinces in July when both countries signed a pact to end four years of Tamil separatist war in Sri Lanka.

Military officials said the Tigers had regrouped in Batticaloa after their northern stronghold of Jaffna was wrested from them by Indian soldiers in a major offensive last October.

There are now five Indian brigades in the Jaffna peninsula. The guerrillas in Batticaloa have staged ambushes on Indian soldiers, called on government workers not to report for work and told businessmen not to open their shops.

Civil administration in Batticaloa and in other eastern and northern areas has been crippled for the past three weeks by the rebels' disobedience campaign.



## Thailand continues airstrikes against Laotians

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thai warplanes continued to pound Laotian positions atop a contested border hill Saturday as more Thai soldiers were ordered into the battle, Thai army officers said.

The officers, contacted in Bangkok and near the scene of the fighting, said that troops have retaken about two-thirds of hill 1482 but Laotian artillery fire was slowing down advancing ground troops.

The hill is part of a remote border area contested by both countries. The fighting, which began last November, has escalated in recent days.

The officers, who asked not to be identified by name, said Third Army Commander Lt. Gen. Siri Tivaphan ordered infantry troops to reinforce Thai forces following reports that Laos had sent more soldiers and artillery pieces into the embattled area.

Artillery duels continued Saturday as the Thai sent U.S.-made F-5 jets against the hilltop. Thailand said one of its F-5s was shot down by a surface-to-air missile last Thursday but denied Laotian claims that a second had been downed earlier.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Chaovalit Yongchaiyudh told reporters Friday that more than 200 Laotian troops have been killed and 300 to 400 others wounded in the fighting. Returning from an inspection of the battlefield, located some 380 kilometres north of Bangkok, Chaovalit said that the Thais had also destroyed a number of tanks and artillery pieces.

## Several injured in blasts during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — Several people, including a policeman, were injured when anti-government demonstrators set off two bombs in Dhaka hours after the latest opposition-led general strike gripped Bangladesh Saturday.

Police said the bombs, packed with metal fragments, went off outside a court building where officials were receiving documents from candidates in municipal elections.

Witnesses said the stone-throwing demonstrators dispersed quickly after armed riot police chased them down nearby alleys.

Twenty-one opposition parties called Saturday's strike, the 21st since Nov. 11, in a fresh attempt to force President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to resign.

The parties are also organising a boycott of parliamentary elec-

tions scheduled for March 3.

The stoppage also paralysed the main port of Chittagong. Residents said at least five bombs exploded in the city, where strike supporters briefly clashed with police. About a dozen people were arrested but no casualties reported.

Dhaka streets were empty of traffic except for a few government buses, pedal rickshaws and vehicles carrying police.

On a road reserved for the president, ministers and senior officials, small boys played soccer and vendors sold junk foodstuffs and toys.

Shops were mostly shuttered and schools closed. Trains and river ferries were disrupted but Bangladesh Biman, the national airline, said it hoped to operate all scheduled flights although some might be delayed.

## Panama denounces U.S. indictment of Noriega

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama has denounced charges against military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega as "an obsessive campaign" that could spark "unforeseeable reactions" and warned that patience and tolerance were wearing thin.

Panamanians were watching anxiously, diplomats said, to see what would happen next after the Foreign Ministry Friday issued a strongly worded statement rebuking drug smuggling and racketeering charges contained in two indictments, made public in Miami Friday, against Noriega.

Noriega was quoted in a U.S. television interview Friday night as saying he would contest the

drug charges and that he would fight if necessary to stay in power.

The Foreign Ministry said the government "energetically and indignantly rejects... the obsessive campaign of lies and calumnies against" Noriega and "the attempts by the North American administration... to isolate Panama and destabilise its government."

"The government warns that it is extremely dangerous to tax the patience, tolerance and good faith of the Panamanian people with campaigns that could spark unforeseen reactions," it said. The Foreign Ministry did not specify what actions might be taken.

## NASA: Shuttle can build space station in 1990s

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. space agency has told Congress that the space shuttle was capable of building and servicing a manned space station in the 1990s.

"With its present capabilities, the shuttle can deliver and support assembly of all station elements," it said in a report requested by Congress.

After the January 1986 Challenger disaster, Congress ordered the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to consider the most cost-effective way to build and service a permanently orbiting space station, the major U.S. space programme for the coming decade.

The NASA report said there were other, unmanned alternatives to using the shuttle, but they would cost more and would take time to develop, probably delaying the completion of a space station.

Under current, tentative plans, a 450,000-pound (200,000-kilogramme), 120-yard-long (110 metre) space station will be assembled in orbit over about three years, starting in 1994. By 1996 it will be permanently manned by up to eight astronauts who could stay as long as six months at a time.

The NASA report said assembly of the station would at present require 19 shuttle flights, but that could be reduced to 14 if new, more powerful shuttle booster rockets are used.

## Ex-police chief finds no shoot-to-kill policy in Belfast

LONDON (AP) — A former senior British police officer who investigated the Northern Ireland police after they shot six people to death, said Friday he found no evidence of a "formal, officially endorsed shoot-to-kill policy."

"What I did find was a state of affairs where some junior officers thought that maybe was expected of them," John Stalker, former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, said on Channel 4 television.

Anglo-Irish relations worsened when the attorney general, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told the House of Commons on Jan. 25 that there would be no prosecutions of police officers in connection with the case, despite evidence of perversion of justice.

Stalker said Friday that any prosecutions should have been made 2½ years ago when he presented his evidence, and that the decision at this point not to

prosecute, "probably makes sense."

"It certainly makes political sense, and probably would be oppressive, almost, now to call for the prosecution of relatively junior officers."

Police said Friday they found a Soviet-made grenade launcher and 26 grenades in an arms cache apparently destined for Protestant militants in Belfast.

Another arms load destined for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) also contained two Soviet-made grenade launchers, police said.

The IRA consignments were uncovered Wednesday in an ice cream truck stopped by police outside Belfast, and the Protestant load was found Thursday in an outhouse behind a building in north Belfast, police said.

Press Association, the British news agency, said the loads were the largest found in recent years.

## Tension mounts just days before Iowa caucuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the pivotal Iowa caucuses just days away, the tension and hilarity of the presidential campaign both increased.

Bob Dole and George Bush, the Republicans' two top contenders, Friday continued to flout the party's unwritten rule of etiquette that candidates should not speak ill of his Republican rivals.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis won among Democrats and Dole won among Republicans in a light-hearted, semi-scientific poll in the Iowa town of Emmetsburg in which residents showed their preference by flushing toilets on cue.

Officials judged the poll by measuring the drop in the water level of the town's 250,000-gallon (946,000-liter) tank.

It's not a very scientific gauge, acknowledged Emmetsburg city employee William McGrath, "but it's something to be doing. A lot of people really get into it."

deducted in a more scientific manner for several television stations — showed Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri leading among the Democrats for the Monday caucuses, with Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois and Dukakis tied just behind him.

The Iowa caucuses, in which delegates representing the candidates vie to be chosen to attend the parties' national nominating conventions this summer, are regarded as the first decisive test in the lengthy process of choosing the major parties' candidates for the November elections.

In the campaign's noisiest rivalry, Vice President Bush Friday refused Sen. Dole's demands that he apologise for harsh remarks by Bush's Iowa campaign chairman.

The verbal battle between the top two Republican contenders focused attention on the two and stole the limelight from the other candidates, but Bush complained that it was obstructing his campaign.

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### Satellites to hunt for water in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — The United States and the United Arab Emirates Saturday signed a four-year agreement under which American satellites will search for water in the desert country, embassy officials said.

### Saudis execute drug smuggler

RIYADH (R) — A Chadian was beheaded in the red sea city of Jeddah Friday after confessing to drug smuggling, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The agency said police found more than 25 million narcotic pills in Ahmad Ibn Ali Ibn Mohammad's house in addition to 25 cases of alcoholic drinks, banned in Saudi Arabia which follows Islamic Sharia Law. Saudi Arabia introduced capital punishment for drugs cases last March and police say drug smuggling had decreased considerably since. Beheadings of drug smugglers, murderers and rapists are carried out in a public square after noon Muslim prayers.

### Gambling is serious problem in China

PEKING (AP) — From the nation's pigsties to the homes of Communist Party members, gambling is making a comeback in China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday. "Gambling rears its ugly head again," Xinhua warned in reporting that gambling cases increased from 139,000 cases in 1986 to 173,000 cases involving 635,000 people last year. Xinhua said gambling, banned since the Communist takeover in 1949, ranges from dice, poker and billiards to sitting by the road and guessing whether the last digit of a vehicle licence plate will be odd or even. "After the last digit of a vehicle licence plate will be odd or even," Xinhua said, "gambling activities have become more covert." Xinhua said, "They are conducted in peasants' homes located in remote mountainous areas, pigsties and credit cooperatives, and even in homes of Communist Party members and cadres." It said stakes sometimes run into the thousands of yuan (3.7 yuan equals one U.S. dollar), several times the annual income of a Chinese farmer, and that gambling has led to family disputes, divorce, graft, embezzlement, robbery and murder.

### One-shot needle proposed

AMARILLO, Texas (R) — A possible solution to part of the AIDS problem — needles that drug addicts cannot use more than once — has been developed by a local restaurateur. William Douglass, 34, is seeking a patent on his invention, which is still in the design stage but which he calls absolutely foolproof. The Douglass needle has an internal catch in the syringe which, after the first shot, renders it useless. Reuse of AIDS-infected needles has been cited as a major cause of the disease among intravenous drug users. Douglass came up with the idea while watching a news report about New York City's plan to distribute free needles to drug addicts to help prevent the spread of AIDS. He felt the programme was doomed to failure. "The junkies are going to use those needles more than once," he said. "What about the guy who doesn't get a clean needle? He'll just borrow his friend's needle." Developing the design for the syringe took two weeks. The catch mechanism will cost about one cent per needle, Douglass said. He could not say when his creation might hit the market.

### Olympic village offers free condoms

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Athletes at the Winter Olympics can get free condoms — but they will have to pay if they want soft-porn magazines. The two commodities will be available to the 2,500 competitors expected at the Feb. 13-28 games and reflect what organisers say are realities of life in 1988. "We're not running a Victorian temperance society here," said Calgary Olympic Village Mayor Bob Niven of the girls' magazines on sale in the village's store. "We're no different from the world outside." The same philosophy underscores the free condoms policy, which medical officers have instituted to help guard against the sexual transmission of AIDS. "We're not handing out condoms but if an athlete wants them they are available at no cost from the pharmacy," said athlete and emergency services supervisor Annette Heasman. "It's because of the high incidence of AIDS and because public health authorities feel it's in line with preventive care," she said. The Calgary Olympic Village, opened Friday by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, will be home to nearly 2,000 athletes and officials during the games, including bob-sledding Crown Prince Albert of Monaco. A further 1,000 athletes, many competitors in exhibition and demonstration sports, are being housed at two more sites outside Calgary.

### Crowd mobs for Michael Jackson tickets

ROME (AP) — About 100 fans of Michael Jackson mobbed a Rome bank and disrupted traffic after a local radio station mistakenly announced that tickets for the singer's Italian tour in May would go on sale immediately. Organisers of Jackson's tour said the 430 branches of the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro would accept orders for the concerts starting Feb. 10 and send tickets to the homes of the concertgoers. But a crowd of young people wove through traffic in front of the bank on Rome's Via Veneto after they heard a morning broadcast on one of the city's private stations, which informed listeners that tickets for the rock star's three concerts in Italy were available immediately at the bank. The bank decided to oblige those who showed up Friday by taking their orders. Jackson will open a European tour with concerts at Rome's 50,000 seat Flaminio Stadium on May 23 and 24. He will perform a third concert on May 29 in the 45,000-seat municipal soccer stadium in the northern city of Turin. Prices for the tickets will range from 36,000 lire to 55,000 lire (\$30 to \$45).

### Reagan feted at surprise party

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's wife Nancy and his official family threw a surprise 77th birthday party for America's oldest chief executive Friday that featured the debut of a special song honouring him. "And I used to think I wanted an Oscar," said Reagan, referring to a top film industry award, after Broadway composer Marvin Hamlisch played the song for 70 guests at a luncheon in the White House State Dining Room. Reagan, who seemed genuinely surprised by the birthday fete — he will actually celebrate his 77th birthday Saturday — quipped that since he now had a song of his own, "I'm going to take singing lessons." Later Mrs. Reagan, her eyes glistening with tears, gave her husband a hug and kiss as White House officials, members of the cabinet and friends sang "happy birthday."

### Man chained for 6 years after ax attack

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A man thought to be insane after he ran amok with an ax was shackled in a hut by his father for six years, a newspaper has reported. Peter Chirimimba, 47, was chained by an ox harness around his neck and arms by his 70-year-old father, Munetsi, in the Rushinga district in north eastern Zimbabwe, the Herald reported. The younger Chirimimba was shackled in the hut in 1982. He was provided with food, but had not had a bath until Wednesday, when police took him to a hospital, the newspaper said. His father told the Herald his son was treated by a traditional healer, commonly known as a witch doctor, after the violent outburst, but afterward he continued to assault members of the family. "I decided to chain him up and lock him in the hut," said the elder Chirimimba. Police said they were investigating the case, but viewed it with "understanding."

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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#### TRICKS OUT OF STRAW

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q84  
♥ K65  
♦ AKQ3  
♣ A62

**EAST**  
♠ J106  
♥ J83  
♦ J10742  
♣ Q6

**SOUTH**  
♠ AK952  
♥ 1072  
♦ 9  
♣ K1074

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 2♦ Pass  
2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass  
4♦ Pass 4♦ Pass  
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Desperate tactics usually end up costing tricks. But once in a while a hand will crop up where the astute player will realize he must resort to the bluffs if he is to have any chance. If he is successful, the results can be flabbergasting.

South probed for a major suit in his partner's hand with his Stayman two-club bid, then offered his partner a choice of contracts with his jump to three spades. North showed a maximum no trump with diamond strength, but that was the last thing South wanted to hear.

Looking at all four hands, it is obvious declarer can collect 11 tricks because the ace of hearts is with West. However, the auction made it clear to West that the contract was going to be hard to beat, especially since the king of hearts rated to be behind the ace-queen.

Since North had no more than three hearts, West decided to gamble on declarer having some length in hearts, and he selected the deceptive queen of hearts for his opening lead. He struck gold!

Not surprisingly, declarer thought West was leading from the queen-jack and that East held the ace. To protect his ten from a lead through, declarer played low from dummy to the first trick. When West continued with a low heart, declarer again followed low from the table, confident East would produce the ace or that his own ten would win the trick. He was taken aback when East scored his jack at the second trick, and a heart came back to West's ace.

West continued with the 13th heart. Declarer discarded a club from the table and declarer overruled. A thoroughly shaken South was now convinced that West had played a fourth heart in an effort to promote a trump trick for himself, so declarer cranked the ace of trumps and led another. When West followed with the seven, declarer finessed dummy's eight. Down one!

## White House temporarily accepts contra aid defeat

WASHINGTON (R) — White House officials said they would sit back sceptically and watch how Central American peace efforts unfold without the pressure of U.S. military aid to Nicaragua's contra rebels.

U.S. officials said the administration had no other choice following the congressional defeat of President Reagan's bid to send the contras an additional \$36.25 million in aid which would have included \$3.6 million for weaponry.

"After the Iranarms scandal, I can't imagine anyone around here trying to get around this vote," said one official who asked not to be identified.

When Congress previously cut military aid to the contras, White House officials tried to evade the ban, in part by diverting to the rebels profits from arms sold to Iran in breach of a U.S. embargo.

It became Reagan's worst foreign policy scandal.

After Congress defeated the aid over Reagan's insistence that military pressure was needed to make Nicaragua's Sandinista government comply with a regional peace plan, the White House said Central America would take on the burden.

"Now the major burden shifts to the other Democratic (Central American) countries to keep

pressure on the Sandinistas to negotiate honestly and expeditiously," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Friday.

He proclaimed the 219-211 House of Representatives defeat of the aid package Wednesday "a vote down for freedom because we're very sceptical if it will work."

"But our only recourse now is to see if it does," he said.

Fitzwater left open the possibility Reagan would ask again for military aid if by Feb. 29, when current assistance expires, there had not been sufficient progress towards a ceasefire in Nicaragua.

Sandinista and contra officials have met once to discuss a ceasefire as part of a Central American peace plan, signed by the region's five presidents last August, that sought an end to guerrilla wars and democratic reforms in the region.

Democratic Party opponents of the aid proposal argued Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was sincere in his promises to comply with the Guatemala pact.

In San Salvador, El Salvador's government said Friday the U.S. House of Representatives' rejection of the aid package meant Ortega no longer had an excuse for failing to comply with a regional peace plan.

## Soviets conduct nuclear test

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union conducted an underground nuclear test explosion Saturday at its site in Semipalatinsk in central Asia, TASS news agency reported.

TASS said the explosion, with a yield of up to 20 kilotonnes, was carried out at 7.20 a.m. Moscow

time (0420 GMT) "with a view to checking the results of studies in the field of physics of the nuclear explosion."

The test was the first carried out by Moscow this year and the 17th since the Soviet Union ended a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing last February.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE NO. TCC 2/88

### SUPPLY OF LOCAL LINE PLANT SERVICES AND ACCESSORIES

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 2/88 for the Supply of Local Line Plant Services and Accessories as part of the Implementation programme of the Five-Year Development Plan for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the terms, stipulations & technical specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit, in addition to bid price, a financing proposal to finance the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman - Jordan, as of Thursday, February 11, 1988, against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred (500) Jordanian Dinars (JD).

Bids, accompanied by bid security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon, local time on Saturday, May 21, 1988.

Director General  
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE NO. TCC1/88

### SUPPLY OF HEAVY MATERIALS FOR LOCAL LINE PLANT PROJECTS

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 1/88 for the Supply of Heavy Materials for Local Line Plant Projects such as cables, wooden poles, P.V.C. pipes, manhole covers and dropwires, as part of the implementation programme of the Five-Year Development Plan for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for a loan from the World Bank, and intends to use the proceeds of this loan to finance part of the cost of the project for which this invitation to bid is issued. As the available World Bank financing is insufficient to cover all the cost of this procurement, bidders are invited to submit in addition to the bid price a financing offer, at their option, to finance the contract cost or part of it.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers from the World Bank member countries, Switzerland, and Taiwan - China, are invited to participate in this tender, in accordance with the terms, stipulations and technical specifications contained in the bidding documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, P.O. Box 1689, Telecommunications Corporation, Amman - Jordan, as of Thursday, February 11, 1988, against a payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred (100) Jordanian Dinars (JD).

Bids, accompanied by bid security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Saturday, April 16, 1988.

Director General  
Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail

مكتبة العامة